

HF1829 - 0 - Silver Alert System

Chief Author: **Jerry Newton**
 Committee: **Public Safety Finance & Policy**
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 Agency: **Public Safety Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings) Dollars in Thousands	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	115	115	115
Total	-	-	115	115	115
Biennial Total			115		230

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	1	1	1
Total	-	-	1	1	1

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Laura Cecko **Date:** 3/18/2024 10:42:31 AM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	-	115	115	115
Total		-	-	115	115	115
Biennial Total				115		230
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	-	115	115	115
Total		-	-	115	115	115
Biennial Total				115		230
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

The bill establishes a Silver Alert system to aid in the identification, location, and recovery of missing senior citizens with dementia, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer’s disease, or other cognitive impairments.

Subdivision 1: The Commissioner of Public Safety is to establish the Silver Alert system and is directed to coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and public and commercial television and radio broadcasters to ensure an effective system is created.

Subdivision 2: The Commissioner is directed to develop criteria and procedures for the Silver Alert system in consultation with:

- the Commissioner of Health
- the Commissioner of Human Services
- the Commissioner of Transportation
- the Superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- the AMBER Alert coordinator
- the Executive Director of the Board of Aging
- representatives from the Elder Care Alliance, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, the Minnesota Sheriffs’ Association, the Minnesota Broadcasters Association, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance

The Commissioner of Public Safety must adopt criteria and procedures for operation of the Silver Alert system by October 1, 2023 [presumably this date is to be changed].

Subdivision 3: The Commissioner shall regularly review the effectiveness of the Silver Alert system and revise its criteria and procedures as might be necessary.

Subdivision 4: The Silver Alert system shall include all state and local agencies capable of providing urgent and timely information to the public, together with broadcasters and other private entities that volunteer to participate.

Subdivision 5: In an activation of the Silver Alert system, the Commissioner of Public Safety may notify authorities and entities outside of Minnesota.

Subdivision 6: Knowingly making a false report that triggers a Silver Alert is a misdemeanor.

Assumptions

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) operates the similar AMBER Alert system and would operate the Silver Alert system on behalf of the Commissioner of Public Safety. The BCA will coordinate with law enforcement agencies and broadcasters in the creation and operation of the system, will consult with the specified stakeholders in developing the system's criteria and procedures, and will regularly assess the system's capabilities and effectiveness.

The BCA looked to Wisconsin for details on that state's Silver Alert program. In 2023, Wisconsin issued 95 Silver Alerts under these criteria:

1. The missing person is 60 years of age or older.
2. The missing person is believed to have Alzheimer's, Dementia, or another permanent cognitive impairment which poses a threat to their health and safety.
3. There is reasonable belief that the missing person's disappearance is due to their impaired cognitive condition.
4. The Silver Alert request is made within 72 hours of the individual's disappearance.
5. There is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing person.
6. The missing person has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

It is expected that the procedures and activation criteria developed and implemented for Minnesota's Silver Alert system will be substantially similar to those of the Wisconsin system, in keeping with this legislation. Wisconsin's experience is probably also a good predictor of how many Silver Alerts might be issued in Minnesota. The BCA assumes that one FTE (State Program Administrator Intermediate) will be needed beginning in FY25 to coordinate the program including developing the criteria and procedures; consulting with program partners listed in the legislation; implementing procedures; evaluating Silver Alert requests; issuing alerts; assisting with FBI NCIC entries; coordinating with missing person clearing houses in other states; coordinating BCA investigative resources to assist local agencies; serving as the liaison with stakeholder groups and the community; and evaluating program effectiveness.

BCA will add to the Criminal Justice Statute Service the new misdemeanor crime of knowingly making a false report that triggers a Silver Alert. BCA will absorb the minimal cost of doing so.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

One FTE: Missing Persons Coordinator (State Program Admin Intermediate) would be required @ \$115,119 (salary, fringe, supplies, and training) to create and operate the Silver Alert system beginning in FY25 and ongoing.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Wisconsin Department of Justice

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