

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1615
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 10, 2015

Authors: Christensen and others

Subject: Lifesaver Rapid Response Programs; Silver Alert Working Group

Analyst: Jeff Diebel

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm.

Overview

This bill creates a grant program for the development and support of lifesaver rapid response programs which are designed to quickly find senior citizens with medical conditions that cause those afflicted to go missing. This bill also establishes a working group to study Minnesota's need for a Silver Alert system to aid in the recovery of missing persons who are senior citizens with dementia, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, or other mental disabilities.

Section

1 Lifesaver Grant Program.

Subd. 1. Grant program. Directs the commissioner of public safety to create a lifesaver grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies with the costs of developing lifesaver rapid response programs designed to quickly find senior citizens with medical conditions that cause them to go missing.

Subd. 2. Application; eligibility. Establishes eligibility criteria for grant recipients.

Subd. 3. Grant awards. Establishes guidelines for dividing grant funds among eligible applicants.

Subd. 4. Uses of grant award. Restricts the use of grant funds to purchasing emergency kits and training responders.

Section

Subd. 5. Lifesaver grant program account. Establishes a lifesaver grant program account to receive private contributions and state money when appropriated to fund the lifesaver grant program.

Subd. 6. Rulemaking authority. Grants rulemaking authority to the commissioner to implement the lifesaver grant program.

Subd. 7. Report by local agencies. Requires a grant recipient to submit a report to the commissioner that itemizes expenditures and explains how the program will sustain itself.

Subd. 8. Report to legislature. Requires the commissioner to report to the legislature by January 15, 2018, on the status of lifesaver programs in the state and how grant funds were distributed and expended.

2. **Silver Alert system; working group.**

Subd. 1. Working group established; study required. Directs the commissioner of public safety to convene a working group to study Minnesota's need for a Silver Alert system to aid in the recovery of missing persons who are senior citizens with dementia, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, or other mental disabilities. Requires that the group assess Minnesota's current notification system and examine alert systems from other states.

Subd. 2. Membership. Provides that the commissioner, the superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Amber Alert coordinator, and representatives from specified law enforcement, broadcast, transportation, and disabilities agencies must be part of the working group.

Subd. 3. Administrative issues. Directs the commissioner to convene the first meeting of the working group by September 15, 2015.

Subd. 4. Report and draft legislation required. By January 15, 2016, requires that the working group prepare and submit a report summarizing the group's activities and recommendations and prepare draft legislation to implement its recommendations.

3. **Appropriation.** Contains blank appropriations from the general fund to finance the lifesaver grant program.