

1 SB341
2 192015-1
3 By Senators Smitherman and Orr
4 RFD: Health and Human Services
5 First Read: 22-FEB-18

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law provides for the issuance of a
9 missing senior citizen alert under certain
10 circumstances.

11 This bill would provide for a missing senior
12 citizen alert to be issued for persons suffering
13 from Alzheimer's disease or dementia, regardless of
14 age, and would provide guidelines for doing so. The
15 bill would also require specialized training for
16 law enforcement personnel who participate in
17 searching for missing persons with Alzheimer's
18 disease or dementia.

19
20 A BILL
21 TO BE ENTITLED
22 AN ACT

23
24 Relating to missing persons; to amend Sections
25 26-19A-2 and 26-19A-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for a
26 missing senior citizen alert to be issued for persons
27 suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia, regardless of

1 age, and to provide guidelines for the issuance of the alert;
2 and to require specialized training for law enforcement
3 personnel who participate in searching for missing persons
4 with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

6 Section 1. Sections 26-19A-2 and 26-19A-4, Code of
7 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

8 "§26-19A-2.

9 The Missing Senior Citizen Alert Act is enacted for
10 the following purposes:

11 (1) To provide a rapid response to missing or lost
12 senior citizens at risk of bodily harm or death or persons
13 suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

14 (2) To gain the voluntary assistance of the
15 broadcast media to help locate missing senior citizens.

16 "§26-19A-4.

17 "(a) A missing senior citizen alert shall be
18 activated by the department when a ~~senior~~ citizen is reported
19 missing and an investigation reveals the following:

20 "(1) The ~~senior~~ citizen is at risk of bodily harm or
21 death, or suffers from Alzheimer's disease or dementia. An
22 alert may be issued for a person suffering from Alzheimer's
23 disease or dementia regardless of age.

24 "(2) There is enough descriptive information about
25 the senior or person suffering from Alzheimer's disease or
26 dementia to believe an immediate media alert would help
27 investigators locate the person. For persons suffering from

1 Alzheimer's disease or dementia, a statement from a caregiver
2 that the missing person suffers from either disease shall be
3 considered sufficient proof of the disease.

4 "(b) A report of a missing senior citizen or missing
5 person suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia may be
6 made to the department as soon as a concerned party or
7 caregiver believes the person to be missing. Upon the
8 submission of the report, a search in the missing person's
9 local area may begin immediately, and the department may
10 expand the search to include areas outside of the missing
11 person's local area if needed.

12 "(c) The department and local law enforcement
13 agencies shall require law enforcement officers, 911
14 operators, and other emergency personnel to complete training
15 in techniques for searching for a missing person with
16 Alzheimer's disease or dementia. If a missing person report is
17 made for a person suffering from Alzheimer's disease or
18 dementia, the department and local law enforcement agencies
19 shall utilize available personnel who have participated in
20 this training to assist in conducting the search."

21 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
22 first day of the third month following its passage and
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.