

Introduced by

Senator Larson

Representative Heinert

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to a state alert notice system; and to repeal sections 39-03-13.2 and 54-12-32 of
3 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state's silver and blue alert notice systems.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
6 enacted as follows:

7 **Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

- 9 1. "Amber alert notice" means an urgent bulletin using the emergency alert system to air
10 a description of a child who has been abducted.
- 11 2. "Blue alert notice" means an urgent bulletin using the emergency alert system to air a
12 description of an individual or an individual's vehicle to aid in the apprehension of an
13 individual who has threatened a law enforcement officer with a deadly weapon, used a
14 deadly weapon against a law enforcement officer, caused a law enforcement officer to
15 suffer serious bodily injury or death, abducted a law enforcement officer, or caused a
16 law enforcement officer to go missing while on duty, and the individual has left the
17 scene of the offense.
- 18 3. "Missing individual" means:
- 19 a. A disabled adult or elderly vulnerable adult as defined in section 50-25.2-01 who
20 has disappeared and whose disappearance has been reported to law
21 enforcement;
- 22 b. A minor who has a developmental disability as defined in section 25-01.2-01 who
23 has disappeared and whose disappearance has been reported to law
24 enforcement; or

1 c. An elderly adult who has disappeared, whose disappearance has been reported
2 to law enforcement and the disappearance:

3 (1) May pose an imminent risk of personal injury to the adult or others, as
4 determined by a law enforcement agency based on a report received from
5 the missing adult's family member which contains sufficient evidence of the
6 imminent risk;

7 (2) Poses a threat to the health and safety of the adult due to the environment
8 or severe winter, cold, or windy weather conditions, as determined by a law
9 enforcement agency based on a report received from the missing adult's
10 family member which contains sufficient evidence of the threat to health or
11 safety; or

12 (3) Warrants a silver alert notice activation due to the particular circumstances
13 or duration of the disappearance, as determined by a law enforcement
14 agency based on a report received from the missing adult's family member
15 which contains sufficient evidence that the particular circumstances or
16 duration warrant a silver alert notice activation.

17 4. "Silver alert notice" means an urgent bulletin using the emergency alert system to air a
18 description of a missing individual to aid in the location of that individual.

19 **Alert notice system activation.**

20 1. A law enforcement agency may request the bureau of criminal investigation or the
21 superintendent of the highway patrol to activate an amber alert notice, a blue alert
22 notice, or a silver alert notice.

23 2. The bureau of criminal investigation, in cooperation with the highway patrol, shall
24 prepare an operational plan to prepare for and respond to requests for activation of an
25 amber alert notice, a blue alert notice, or a silver alert notice. The plan must include
26 the role and requirements of the division of state radio of the department of emergency
27 services in broadcasting an alert to the public.

28 **Minimum requirements for activating an amber or blue alert notice.**

29 1. An amber alert notice may not be activated unless:

30 a. The abduction involves a child seventeen years of age or younger;

- 1 b. The law enforcement agency investigating the abduction has confirmed the child
2 is believed to be in grave danger of serious bodily harm or death; and
3 c. The bureau of criminal investigation or the superintendent of the highway patrol
4 determines sufficient descriptive information has been provided about the child,
5 the abductor, or the abductor's motor vehicle to:
6 (1) Assist with the safe recovery of the child;
7 (2) Assist with the apprehension of the abductor; and
8 (3) Believe an immediate broadcast alert will assist in the search for and safe
9 return of the child.
- 10 2. A blue alert notice may not be activated unless:
11 a. An individual who is a suspect in an offense has threatened a law enforcement
12 officer with a deadly weapon, used a deadly weapon against a law enforcement
13 officer, caused a law enforcement officer to suffer serious bodily injury or death,
14 abducted a law enforcement officer, or caused a law enforcement officer to go
15 missing while on duty;
16 b. The individual has fled the scene of the offense and a description of the individual
17 or the individual's vehicle is available for broadcast;
18 c. The law enforcement agency investigating the offense has determined the
19 individual poses a threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel; and
20 d. Dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm
21 or assist in the apprehension of the suspect.

22 **SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Sections 39-03-13.2 and 54-12-32 of the North Dakota Century
23 Code are repealed.