S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 20, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, MOLINARO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the silver alert system

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-s to read as follows:

S 837-S. SILVER ALERT SYSTEM. 1. THERE IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DIVISION THE SILVER ALERT SYSTEM. THE PURPOSE OF THE SILVER ALERT SYSTEM IS TO PROVIDE A STATEWIDE SYSTEM FOR THE RAPID DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING A MISSING PERSON WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA, ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OR OTHER COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT.

2. IF THE DIVISION RECEIVES A REPORT THAT INVOLVES A MISSING PERSON WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA, ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OR OTHER COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MISSING PERSON FROM POTENTIAL ABUSE OR OTHER PHYSICAL HARM, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION, THE DIVISION SHALL ISSUE AN ALERT PROVIDING FOR RAPID DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION STATEWIDE REGARDING THE MISSING PERSON. THE DIVISION SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHEN THE MISSING PERSON IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, AND THE PERSON'S STATUS AS MISSING HAS BEEN REPORTED TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

3. THE DIVISION SHALL ADOPT GUIDELINES AND DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING AN ALERT FOR MISSING PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA, ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OR OTHER COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND SHALL PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO ENCOURAGE RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALERT. THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES SHALL ENSURE THAT SPECIFIC HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSING PERSON IS NOT MADE PUBLIC THROUGH THE ALERT OR OTHERWISE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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4. THE DIVISION SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOP A PROCEDURE FOR THE USE OF OVERHEAD PERMANENT CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS OR OTHER ROAD SIGNS SUITABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MISSING ADULT MEETING THE CRITERIA OF THIS SECTION WHEN INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THAT WOULD ENABLE MOTORISTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY OF THE MISSING PERSON. THE DIVISION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTENT, LENGTH, AND FREQUENCY OF ANY MESSAGE TO BE PLACED ON AN OVERHEAD PERMANENT CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN OR OTHER ROAD SIGNS SUITABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.