

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7584

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

December 10, 2021

Introduced by Sen. PALUMBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to enacting "Gabby's law" establishing a coordinated law enforcement adult rescue "teal alert" for missing adults

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 "Gabby's law" establishing a "teal alert".

3 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-f-3 to  
4 read as follows:

5 § 837-f-3. Coordinated law enforcement adult rescue alert for missing  
6 adults. 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

7 (a) "Adult" means a person who is eighteen years of age or older but  
8 younger than sixty-five years of age.

9 (b) "Alert" means the statewide coordinated law enforcement adult  
10 rescue alert for missing adults that is developed and implemented under  
11 this section.

12 (c) "Bodily injury" means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of  
13 physical condition.

14 (d) "Local law enforcement agency" means a local law enforcement agen-  
15 cy with jurisdiction over the investigation of a missing adult.

16 2. With the cooperation of the department of transportation, the  
17 office of the governor, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies  
18 in this state, the division shall develop and implement a system to  
19 allow a statewide alert to be activated on behalf of a missing adult.

20 3. (a) The commissioner shall be the statewide coordinator of the  
21 alert system.

22 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules and issue directives as neces-  
23 sary to ensure proper implementation of the alert system. The rules and  
24 directives shall include:

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

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1 (i) the procedures to be used by a local law enforcement agency to  
2 verify whether an adult is missing and whether circumstances indicate  
3 that;

4 (A) the missing adult is in imminent danger of bodily injury or death;  
5 or

6 (B) the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been volun-  
7 tary, including cases of abduction or kidnapping; and

8 (C) the missing adult's disappearance poses a credible threat to the  
9 safety and health of the individual or another identifiable person and  
10 under such circumstances also deemed appropriate by law enforcement;

11 (ii) a description of the circumstances under which a local law  
12 enforcement agency is required to report a missing adult to the divi-  
13 sion; and

14 (iii) the procedures to be used by an individual or entity to report  
15 information about a missing adult to designated media outlets in this  
16 state.

17 (c) The commissioner shall prescribe forms for use by local law  
18 enforcement agencies in requesting activation of the alert system.

19 4. The division shall recruit public and commercial television and  
20 radio broadcasters, private commercial entities, state or local govern-  
21 mental entities, the public, and other appropriate persons to assist in  
22 developing and implementing the alert system.

23 5. (a) A state agency participating in the alert system shall:

24 (i) cooperate with the division and assist in developing and imple-  
25 menting the alert system; and

26 (ii) establish a plan for providing relevant information to its offi-  
27 cers, investigators, or employees, as appropriate, once the alert system  
28 has been activated.

29 (b) In addition to its duties as a state agency under paragraph (a) of  
30 this subdivision, the department of transportation shall establish a  
31 plan for providing relevant information to the public through an exist-  
32 ing system of dynamic message signs located across the state.

33 6. (a) A local law enforcement agency shall notify the division if the  
34 agency:

35 (i) receives a report regarding a missing adult;

36 (ii) verifies that at the time the adult is reported missing:

37 (A) the person reported missing is eighteen years of age or older but  
38 younger than sixty-five years of age;

39 (B) the adult's location is unknown; and

40 (C) the adult has been missing for less than seventy-two hours;

41 (iii) confirms that a preliminary investigation has taken place with  
42 respect to the disappearance and that, as a result of that investi-  
43 gation, the agency believes that the adult is missing under circum-  
44 stances described by subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of subdivision  
45 three of this section; and

46 (iv) believes sufficient information is available to disseminate to  
47 the public that could assist in locating the adult, a person suspected  
48 of abducting or kidnapping the adult, or a vehicle suspected of being  
49 used by the adult or in any abduction or kidnapping of the adult.

50 (b) The division may modify the criteria described by paragraph (a) of  
51 this subdivision as necessary for the proper implementation of the alert  
52 system.

53 7. (a) When a local law enforcement agency notifies the division  
54 pursuant to subdivision six of this section, the division shall confirm  
55 the accuracy of the information and, if confirmed, immediately issue an

1 alert under this section in accordance with the division's rules and  
2 directives under subdivision three of this section.

3 (b) The division may issue the alert on its own initiative, without  
4 receiving the notification described by paragraph (a) of this subdivi-  
5 sion, if the issuance conforms to the division's rules and directives  
6 and if the criteria described by paragraph (a) of subdivision six of  
7 this section are satisfied.

8 (c) In issuing the alert, the division shall send the alert to desig-  
9 nated media outlets in this state. Following receipt of the alert,  
10 participating radio stations and television stations and other partic-  
11 ipating media outlets may issue the alert at designated intervals to  
12 assist in locating the missing adult.

13 (d) The division shall also send the alert to:

14 (i) any appropriate law enforcement agency;

15 (ii) the department of transportation;

16 (iii) the New York lottery; and

17 (iv) the independent bankers association of New York state.

18 8. The alert shall include:

19 (a) all appropriate information that may lead to the safe recovery of  
20 the missing adult, as determined by the division; and

21 (b) a statement instructing any person with information related to the  
22 missing adult to contact a local or state law enforcement agency.

23 9. (a) The commissioner shall terminate any activation of the alert  
24 with respect to a particular missing adult not later than the earlier of  
25 the date on which:

26 (i) the missing adult is located or the situation is otherwise  
27 resolved; or

28 (ii) the notification period ends, as determined by division rule.

29 (b) A local law enforcement agency that locates a missing adult who is  
30 the subject of an alert under this section shall notify the division as  
31 soon as possible that the missing adult has been located.

32 10. (a) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of subdivision five of this  
33 section, the department of transportation is not required to use any  
34 existing system of dynamic message signs in a statewide alert system  
35 created under this section if such department receives notice from the  
36 United States department of transportation federal highway adminis-  
37 tration that the use of such signs would result in the loss of federal  
38 highway funding or other punitive actions taken against this state due  
39 to noncompliance with federal laws, regulations, or policies.

40 (b) Not later than one year after the effective date of this section,  
41 the division shall submit to the governor, the temporary president of  
42 the senate, and the speaker of the assembly a report containing the  
43 results of the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivi-  
44 vision, including any recommendations for proposed legislation.

45 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.