STATE OF NEW YORK

10664

IN SENATE

July 17, 2026

Introduced by Sen. FAHY -- 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 establishing a purple alert program to assist in the location and safe recovery of missing vulnerable persons

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 237 to read as follows:

§ 237. Purple alert program. 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

(a) "Missing vulnerable person" means a person who:

(i) has an intellectual disability, developmental disability, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, or another congenital, developmental, or acquired cognitive or neurological impairment that is not primarily attributable to age-related cognitive decline that substantially limits such person's ability to communicate, exercise judgment, recognize danger, or safely return without assistance;

(ii) has been reported missing to a law enforcement agency; and

(iii) is reasonably believed by the investigating law enforcement agency to be at risk of serious bodily harm or death due to such person's impairment or the circumstances surrounding the disappearance.

(b) "Purple alert" means the statewide public notification issued pursuant to this section.

2. Program established. The division of state police shall establish and administer a purple alert program to assist in the location and safe recovery of missing vulnerable persons.

3. Activation. (a) A participating law enforcement agency may request activation of a purple alert upon determining that:

(i) the missing person satisfies the definition of a missing vulnerable person;

(ii) sufficient descriptive information exists to assist in locating the missing person; and

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

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(iii) dissemination of the information to the public is reasonably likely to aid in the safe recovery of the missing person.

(b) The superintendent of state police or their designee shall determine whether the criteria for activation have been satisfied.

4. Dissemination. Upon activation, the division of state police may disseminate information regarding the missing vulnerable person through any communications system or public notification platform the superintendent deems appropriate, including but not limited to:

(a) broadcast and digital media;

(b) social media;

(c) electronic communications networks utilized by law enforcement;

(d) variable message signs maintained by the department of transportation or other governmental entities;

(e) wireless emergency alerts, where permitted under applicable federal law; and

(f) any other means reasonably calculated to assist in the safe recovery of the missing vulnerable person.

5. Rules and regulations. The superintendent of state police may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including procedures governing:

(a) requests for activation;

(b) verification of eligibility;

(c) cancellation of alerts;

(d) coordination with local, state, and federal agencies; and

(e) public education regarding the purple alert program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.