
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1956 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SIMMONS, DRISCOLL, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, MACKENZIE,
SCHLOSSBERG, BARRAR, HAHN, CUTLER, D. COSTA, LONGIETTI,
EVANKOVICH, BERNSTINE, MEHAFFIE, LEWIS, FARRY, GILLEN AND
DIGIROLAMO, DECEMBER 7, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, DECEMBER 7, 2017

AN ACT

1 Establishing a pilot program to provide training, equipment and
2 personal devices to aid search and rescue efforts for
3 individuals with special needs.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Project
8 Lifesaver Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Associate." An agency or organization that has all of the
14 following:

15 (1) Instruction and training in the technology used to
16 track individuals who wander and the ability to provide
17 personal transmitter devices.

1 (2) An association with a member.

2 "Member." An agency or organization that:

3 (1) completes training;

4 (2) becomes certified in the use of the approved
5 technology and equipment; and

6 (3) purchases approved technology and equipment from an
7 approved international nonprofit organization.

8 "Public safety agencies." Public or private organizations,
9 agencies or departments responsible for enforcing laws or
10 responding to emergencies, including police, fire, emergency
11 medical services and sheriffs.

12 "Technology." Electronic tracking equipment approved by an
13 international nonprofit organization that receives an
14 individualized tracking signal emitted from a personal
15 transmitter worn by an individual either around the wrist or
16 around the ankle.

17 "Training." Instruction by an approved international
18 nonprofit organization staff or by a law enforcement
19 professional certified by that approved international nonprofit
20 organization to instruct individuals in the technology used to
21 track individuals who wander.

22 Section 3. Pilot program.

23 A pilot program to be known as Project Lifesaver is
24 established to provide resources for public safety agencies to
25 purchase and be trained on state-of-the-art technology and
26 personal transmitter devices to aid families and local emergency
27 agencies in locating an individual with a cognitive disorder or
28 condition who has wandered away from the individual's home or
29 family.

30 Section 4. Funding.

1 (a) Attorney General.--The Attorney General shall fund the
2 \$100,000 pilot program.

3 (b) Distribution.--The funding for the pilot program shall
4 be distributed as follows:

5 (1) Seventy-five percent of the funding shall be used
6 for a regional training session to train new agencies as
7 members or associates in the use of the technology and to
8 provide the members or associates with the equipment and
9 personal transmitter devices for the members or associates to
10 distribute.

11 (2) Twenty-five percent of the funding shall be used for
12 personal transmitter devices and updated technology to be
13 provided to members and associates established prior to the
14 effective date of this section.

15 (c) Procedure.--The Attorney General, in consultation with
16 an international nonprofit organization capable of providing
17 personal transmitter devices, responders and training to
18 agencies and organizations, shall establish criteria and select
19 participants for the pilot program based on a first-come, first-
20 served basis.

21 Section 5. Report.

22 Within 365 days of the establishment of the pilot program
23 under section 3, the international nonprofit organization shall
24 submit to the Attorney General and the Appropriations Committee
25 of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of
26 Representatives a report which shall contain the following:

27 (1) The number of individuals who benefited from the
28 pilot program, including information such as the number of
29 individuals who used tracking devices under the program, the
30 number of people who were trained through the program and the

1 estimated number of people who were impacted by the program.

2 (2) The number of public safety agencies that applied
3 for funding under the pilot program.

4 (3) The number of public safety agencies that received
5 funding under the pilot program, including:

6 (i) The number of State and local public safety
7 agencies that used the funding for training.

8 (ii) The number of State and local public safety
9 agencies that used the funding for tracking technology
10 and personal transmitter devices.

11 (4) The number of individuals with a developmental
12 disability with wandering tendencies who went missing and the
13 result of the search for each individual.

14 Section 6. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect immediately.