

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 544 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, SCARNATI, LANGERHOLC, PHILLIPS-HILL, BREWSTER, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, J. WARD, GORDNER, DINNIMAN, COSTA, YAW, K. WARD, VOGEL, REGAN, AUMENT, YUDICHAK AND TARTAGLIONE, APRIL 10, 2019

REFERRED TO LAW AND JUSTICE, APRIL 10, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 24, 2004 (P.L.1270, No.153),
 2 entitled "An act providing for the Pennsylvania Amber Alert
 3 System; authorizing and directing the Pennsylvania State
 4 Police to establish and maintain the Pennsylvania Amber Alert
 5 System; assessing costs; and providing for immunity and
 6 penalties," establishing the Pennsylvania Blue Alert System
 7 for the protection of the public and the apprehension of a
 8 person of immediate threat.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The title and section 1 of the act of November
 12 24, 2004 (P.L.1270, No.153), referred to as the Pennsylvania
 13 Amber Alert System Law, are amended to read:

14 AN ACT

15 Providing for the Pennsylvania Amber Alert System, the Missing
 16 Endangered Person Advisory System and the Pennsylvania Blue
 17 Alert System; authorizing and directing the Pennsylvania
 18 State Police to establish and maintain the [Pennsylvania
 19 Amber Alert System] alert systems; assessing costs; and
 20 providing for immunity and penalties.

1 Section 1. Pennsylvania Amber Alert System [and], Missing
2 Endangered Person Advisory System (MEPAS) and
3 Pennsylvania Blue Alert System established.

4 (a) Pennsylvania Amber Alert System.--The Pennsylvania State
5 Police shall establish and maintain the Pennsylvania Amber Alert
6 System to assist in the recovery of abducted children through
7 prompt notification to the general public, appropriate law
8 enforcement authorities and other public agencies.

9 (b) Missing Endangered Person Advisory System (MEPAS).--The
10 Pennsylvania State Police shall establish and maintain the
11 Missing Endangered Person Advisory System to assist in the
12 recovery of missing persons who are at special risk of harm or
13 injury, through prompt notification to the general public,
14 appropriate law enforcement authorities and other agencies.

15 (c) Pennsylvania Blue Alert System.--The Pennsylvania State
16 Police shall establish and maintain the Pennsylvania Blue Alert
17 System to assist in the protection of the public and the
18 apprehension of a person of immediate threat, as identified by
19 the Pennsylvania State Police, who may have been involved in the
20 injury or death of a law enforcement officer, through prompt
21 notification to the general public, appropriate law enforcement
22 authorities and other public agencies.

23 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
24 Section 2.2. Use of Pennsylvania Blue Alert System.

25 The Pennsylvania Blue Alert System shall be operated by the
26 Pennsylvania State Police. Activation may be requested by a law
27 enforcement agency if notification of the public is considered
28 prudent for the protection of the public and the immediate need
29 for apprehension of a person identified by the Pennsylvania
30 State Police as posing an immediate threat to the public.

1 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.