

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 78

(SENATE AUTHORS: NEWTON, Abeler, Hoffman and Benson)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/14/2021	92	Introduction and first reading Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to public safety; creating a Silver Alert system to aid in locating missing

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persons who are senior citizens with cognitive impairments; providing a criminal

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penalty; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 626.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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Section 1. [626.97] SILVER ALERT SYSTEM.

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Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of public safety shall establish a Silver

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Alert system to aid in the identification, location, and recovery of missing persons who are

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senior citizens with dementia, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, or other cognitive

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impairments. The commissioner shall coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and

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public and commercial television and radio broadcasters to provide an effective alert system.

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Subd. 2. **Criteria and procedures.** The commissioner, in consultation with the

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commissioners of health, human services, and transportation; the superintendent of the

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Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; the AMBER Alert coordinator; the executive director

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of the Board on Aging; and representatives from Elder Care Alliance, the Minnesota Chiefs

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of Police Association, the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association, the Minnesota Broadcasters

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Association, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance, shall

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develop criteria and procedures for the Silver Alert system. By October 1, 2021, the

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commissioner shall adopt criteria and procedures for the Silver Alert system.

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Subd. 3. **Oversight.** The commissioner shall regularly review the function of the Silver

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Alert system and revise its criteria and procedures to provide for efficient and effective

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public notification.

2.1 Subd. 4. **Scope.** The Silver Alert system shall include all state and local agencies capable
2.2 of providing urgent and timely information to the public, together with broadcasters and
2.3 other private entities that volunteer to participate in the dissemination of urgent public
2.4 information.

2.5 Subd. 5. **Additional notice.** The commissioner may notify authorities and entities outside
2.6 of the state upon verification that the criteria established under this section have been met.

2.7 Subd. 6. **False reports.** A person who knowingly makes a false report that triggers an
2.8 alert under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.