

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4344**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act to create a silver alert program to protect seniors..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 22 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 section:— Section 21. There is hereby created the silver alert community response system. The  
3 system shall be used in alerting designated Massachusetts communities in cases involving  
4 missing and endangered older adults.

5           (a). The silver alert community response system shall:

6           1.    Be used when an adult with serious memory impairment such as Alzheimer’s  
7 disease or other dementia is reported to any police department in Massachusetts as a missing  
8 person and the police department or other appropriate agency has determined that the missing  
9 person should appropriately be the subject of a silver alert..

10          2.    Direct and focus law enforcement and other key response resources in a cost-  
11 effective way in a geographic area consistent with the missing person’s “Point Last Known” and  
12 in accordance with the best available research data related to activities of persons with dementia..

13 (b). The executive office of public safety, in conjunction with the municipal police  
14 training committee shall develop and implement the silver alert system. The Secretary shall  
15 promulgate rules and regulations, as necessary, to ensure proper implementation of the silver  
16 alert. He shall do so in consultation with representatives of the executive office of elder affairs,  
17 attorney general's office, Massachusetts emergency management agency, state police, chiefs of  
18 police association, county sheriff's departments and district attorney's offices, department of  
19 conservation and recreation (rangers), and Massachusetts/New Hampshire chapter of the  
20 national Alzheimer's association.

21 (c). All first responders, 911 operators and any other appropriate personnel shall be  
22 trained on the silver alert system application and protocols; re-training will be included in yearly  
23 in-service trainings for these personnel; training will include information about older drivers  
24 whose memory impairments may put them at high risk for crashes or becoming lost while  
25 driving.

26 (d). The executive office of public safety shall develop a plan to ensure that the Silver  
27 Alert system will include use of a localized reverse 911 emergency phone system.

28 (e). The executive office of public safety shall consider coordinating the silver alert  
29 system with the national MedicAlert®+Safe Return Program®, a nationwide patient  
30 identification and family support program, supported locally by the Massachusetts Alzheimers  
31 Association.