

HOUSE No. 4916

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

An Act TO CREATE A SILVER ALERT COMMUNITY RESPONSE SYSTEM..

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 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 18K the following section:—

3 Section 18L. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:—

5 “EMS first responder”, a person providing emergency medical services as defined in
6 section 1 of chapter 111C.

7 “First responders”, members of police and fire departments, members of the state police
8 participating in highway patrol and members of emergency reserve units of a volunteer fire
9 department or fire protection district trained to administer first aid; provided, however, that first
10 responders shall not include police officers, fire fighters and persons engaged in police and fire
11 work whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative.

12 “Private safety department”, an entity, except for a municipality or a public safety
13 department, that provides emergency police, fire, ambulance or medical services.

14 “Public safety department”, a functional division of a municipality or a state that provides
15 fire fighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical or other emergency services.

16 “Secretary”, the secretary of public safety and security.

17 (b) There is hereby created a silver alert community response system. The silver alert
18 system shall be used, when appropriate, to alert public safety departments and private safety
19 departments, when an adult with serious memory impairment such as Alzheimer’s disease or
20 other dementia is reported to a police department as a missing person. The silver alert system
21 shall direct and focus law enforcement and other key response resources in a cost-effective way
22 in a geographic area consistent with the missing person’s last known location and in accordance
23 with the best available research data related to activities of persons with Alzheimer’s disease or
24 other dementia.

25 (c) The executive office of public safety and security, in conjunction with the department
26 of state police, shall develop and implement the silver alert system. The secretary shall
27 promulgate rules and regulations, as necessary, to ensure proper implementation of the silver
28 alert system.

29 In promulgating rules and regulations, the secretary shall consult with the following: the
30 secretary of the executive office of elder affairs, the attorney general, the executive director of
31 the state 911 department, a representative of the state police, a representative of the
32 Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, a representative of the Massachusetts Sheriffs’
33 Association, a park ranger with the department of conservation and recreation, a representative
34 of the Massachusetts/New Hampshire chapter of the National Alzheimer’s Association and a
35 representative of the Alzheimer’s Services of Cape Cod and the Islands.

(d) All first responders, EMS first responders, 911 operators and other appropriate personnel as determined by the secretary shall be trained on the silver alert system application and protocols; provided further that re-training will be included in the annual in-service training curriculum for these personnel; and provided further that training shall include information about drivers whose memory impairments may put them at high risk for accidents or becoming lost while driving.

(e) The secretary shall develop a plan to ensure that the silver alert system will include use of a localized reverse 911 emergency phone system.

SECTION 2. The executive office of public safety and security shall consider coordinating the silver alert community response system established pursuant to section 18L of chapter 6A of the General Laws with the national MedicAlert +Safe Return Program.