

HOUSE No. 603

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

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. (a). The silver alert community response system shall: Be
5 used when an adult with serious memory impairment such as Alzheimer’s disease or other
6 dementia is appropriately reported to any police department in Massachusetts as a missing
7 person.

8 Direct and focus law enforcement and other key response resources in a cost-effective
9 way in a geographic area consistent with the missing person’s “Point Last Known” and in
10 accordance with the best available research data.

11 (b). The executive office of public safety, in conjunction with the municipal police
12 training committee shall develop and implement the silver alert system in consultation with
13 representatives of the executive office of elder affairs, attorney general’s office, Massachusetts
14 emergency management agency, state police, chiefs of police association, county sheriff’s

15 departments and district attorney's offices, department of conservation and recreation (rangers),
16 and Massachusetts/New Hampshire chapter of the national Alzheimer's association.

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

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

24 (e). The silver alert system shall coordinate and be interoperable with the national
25 MedicAlert®+Safe Return Program® in use by the Alzheimer's association.