An Act To Create an Alert System To Notify the Public When a Person with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability Is Missing

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 261 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 261

ALERT SYSTEM TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF A MISSING PERSON WITH
AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

§2231. Alert system to notify the public of a missing person with an intellectual or
developmental disability

In accordance with this chapter and with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, a statewide organization representing broadcast groups in the State, the Office of the Governor and appropriate law enforcement agencies, the Department of Public Safety shall develop and implement an alert system to be activated on behalf of missing persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The alert system must include standards of procedure for local law enforcement agencies to determine that a missing person is a person with an intellectual or developmental disability and appropriately activate an alert to local or statewide law enforcement agencies and to the media, including print, radio, Internet-based communication systems and other methods of communicating information to the public; a plan for providing relevant information to the public through an existing system of dynamic message signs located across the State when necessary; and training for all law enforcement officers. The alert system must be developed and implemented using existing resources.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement an alert system to be activated on behalf of missing persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.