

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 28

S.P. 36

In Senate, January 13, 2021

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

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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.  
Cosponsored by Representative: UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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

3 **CHAPTER 261**

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

6 **§2231. Alert system to notify the public of a missing person with an intellectual or**  
7 **developmental disability**

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

21 **SUMMARY**

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