

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 375

S.P. 143

In Senate, February 12, 2015

### An Act To Create a Blue Alert Program in Maine

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Heather J.R. Priest'.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth and  
Senators: BURNS of Washington, COLLINS of York, DAVIS of Piscataquis, McCORMICK  
of Kennebec, ROSEN of Hancock, Representatives: GOLDEN of Lewiston, HANINGTON of  
Lincoln, HILLIARD of Belgrade.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 260** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 260**

4 **BLUE ALERT PROGRAM**

5 **§2221. Definitions**

6 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms  
7 have the following meanings.

8 **1. Blue Alert.** "Blue Alert" means a notice provided under this chapter to the public  
9 through certain state agencies and the media.

10 **2. Blue Alert Program.** "Blue Alert Program" means the statewide alert program  
11 regarding killed, injured or missing law enforcement officers developed and implemented  
12 under this chapter.

13 **3. Department.** "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

14 **4. Law enforcement officer.** "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in  
15 section 3701, subsection 3.

16 **5. Media.** "Media" means print, radio, Internet-based communication systems or  
17 other methods of communicating information to the public.

18 **§2222. Blue Alert Program**

19 **1. Blue Alert Program.** In accordance with this chapter and with the cooperation of  
20 the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, a statewide  
21 organization representing broadcast groups in the State, the Office of the Governor and  
22 appropriate law enforcement agencies, the department shall develop and implement the  
23 Blue Alert Program as provided in subsection 2.

24 **2. Program elements.** The Blue Alert Program must be developed and  
25 implemented using existing resources and activated when, in the line of duty, a law  
26 enforcement officer has been killed or injured or is missing, there is sufficient  
27 information available regarding the law enforcement officer's last known location or  
28 physical description of an offender or vehicle involved and the department determines  
29 that a public notification may aid in:

30 A. Apprehending a suspected offender who poses an imminent threat to the public or  
31 to law enforcement personnel; or

32 B. Locating a missing law enforcement officer.

33 **3. Standards of procedure.** The Blue Alert Program must include standards of  
34 procedure for local law enforcement agencies to determine that a condition under  
35 subsection 2 exists to notify the department to activate a Blue Alert, a plan for providing

1 relevant information to the public through an existing system of dynamic message signs  
2 located across the State when necessary and training for all law enforcement officers.

3 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5,  
4 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill creates the Blue Alert Program to notify the public through various state  
7 agencies and media outlets when a law enforcement officer has been killed or injured or  
8 is missing and the Department of Public Safety determines that public notification would  
9 be useful in apprehending a suspected offender or finding a missing officer.