

HOUSE No. 544

By Mr. Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 544) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and others for the development and implementation of a statewide silver alert system to be activated on behalf of missing senior citizens. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Regarding a Senior Silver Alert .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Geraldo Alicea	6th Worcester
Gale D. Candaras	First Hampden and Hampshire
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	10th Hampden
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester
William C. Galvin	6th Norfolk
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	16th Middlesex
Patricia A. Haddad	5th Bristol
John D. Keenan	7th Essex
Michael R. Knapik	Second Hampden and Hampshire
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Jeffrey Davis Perry	5th Barnstable
Elizabeth Poirier	14th Bristol
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden
Michael F. Rush	10th Suffolk
Rosemary Sandlin	3rd Hampden
Stephen Stat Smith	28th Middlesex
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden

Theodore C. Speliotis	13th Essex
Walter F. Timilty	7th Norfolk
Steven M. Walsh	11th Essex
Bruce J. Ayers	1st Norfolk
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
David B. Sullivan	6th Bristol
Brian A. Joyce	Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth
David L. Flynn	8th Plymouth
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk
Thomas J. Calter	12th Plymouth
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT REGARDING A SENIOR SILVER ALERT .

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. Section 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as amended by section 16
2 of chapter 176 of the acts of 2008, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

3 (10) to develop and implement a statewide silver alert system to be activated on behalf of a
4 missing senior citizen pursuant to chapter 118I.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is
6 hereby amended by inserting after section 19A the following section:-

7 Section 19B. The secretary shall coordinate the implementation of a statewide silver alert
8 system, pursuant to chapter 118I, with the executive office of public safety.

9 SECTION 3. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 118H the
10 following chapter:-

CHAPTER 118I.

11
12 THE STATEWIDE SILVER ALERT SYSTEM FOR MISSING SENIOR CITIZENS.

13 Section 1. The following terms as used in this chapter shall, unless the context clearly appears
14 otherwise, have the following meanings:

15 "Executive office", the executive office of public safety.

16 "Local law enforcement agency", a local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the
17 investigation of a missing senior citizen.

18 "Silver alert", the statewide silver alert system for missing senior citizens developed and
19 implemented under this chapter.

20 "Secretary", secretary of public safety.

21 "Senior citizen", a person who is 65 years of age or older.

22 Section 2. (a) The executive office shall develop and implement a statewide silver alert to be
23 activated on behalf of a missing senior citizen. The secretary shall be the statewide coordinator
24 of the silver alert. The secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to ensure
25 proper implementation of the silver alert. The rules and regulations shall include: (1) the
26 procedures to be used by a local law enforcement agency to verify whether a senior citizen: (i) is
27 missing; and (ii) has an impaired mental condition; (2) a description of the circumstances under
28 which a local law enforcement agency is required to report a missing senior citizen to the
29 department; and (3) the procedures to be used by an individual or entity to report information
30 about a missing senior citizen to designated media outlets in Massachusetts.

31 (b) The executive office shall recruit public and commercial television and radio broadcasters,
32 private commercial entities, state or local governmental entities, the public, and other appropriate
33 persons to assist in developing and implementing the silver alert.

34 Section 3. The executive office of transportation shall: (1) cooperate with the executive office
35 and assist in developing and implementing the silver alert; and (2) establish a plan for providing
36 relevant information to the public through an existing system of dynamic message signs located
37 across the commonwealth.

38 Section 4. (a) A local law enforcement agency may notify the executive office if the agency: (1)
39 receives notice of a missing senior citizen; (2) verifies that at the time the senior citizen is
40 reported missing: (i) the person reported missing is 65 years of age or older; (ii) the senior
41 citizen's location is unknown; (iii) the senior citizen's domicile is in Massachusetts; and (iv) the
42 senior citizen has an impaired mental condition; and (3) determines that the senior citizen's
43 disappearance poses a credible threat to the senior citizen's health and safety.

44 (b) The local law enforcement agency shall: (1) require the family or legal guardian of the
45 missing senior citizen to provide documentation of the senior citizen's impaired mental condition
46 to verify the condition as required by sub-clause (iv) of clause (2) of subsection (a); and (2) as
47 soon as practicable, determine whether the senior citizen's disappearance poses a credible threat
48 to the senior citizen's health and safety for purposes of clause (3) subsection (a).

49 Section 5. (a) When a local law enforcement agency notifies the executive office under section 4,
50 the executive office shall confirm the accuracy of the information and, if confirmed, immediately
51 issue a silver alert under this chapter in accordance with executive office rules and regulations.

52 (b) In issuing the silver alert, the executive office shall send the alert to designated media outlets
53 in Massachusetts. Following receipt of the alert, participating radio stations, television stations,
54 and other media outlets may issue the alert at designated intervals to assist in locating the
55 missing senior citizen.

56 Section 6. The silver alert shall include: (1) all appropriate information that is provided by the
57 local law enforcement agency and that may lead to the safe recovery of the missing senior
58 citizen; and (2) a statement instructing any person with information related to the missing senior
59 citizen to contact a local law enforcement agency.

60 Section 7. (a) The secretary shall terminate any activation of the alert with respect to a particular
61 missing senior citizen not later than the earlier of the date on which: (1) the missing senior
62 citizen is located or the situation is otherwise resolved; or (2) the notification period ends, as
63 determined by the executive office.

64 (b) A local law enforcement agency that locates a missing senior citizen who is the subject of a
65 silver alert shall notify the executive office as soon as possible that the missing senior citizen has
66 been located.