

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 371**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public  
Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

SB 371, as amended, would expand current provisions to permit the issuance of a silver alert for a missing person who is 18 years of age or older and has an intellectual disability (ID) and in other specific circumstances.

[*Note:* Current law allows the issuance of a public notice of a missing elderly person under the Kansas Silver Alert Plan.]

***Issuing a Silver Alert***

The bill would establish that a public notice of a missing person under the Kansas Silver Alert Plan could be issued for a person 18 years or older and the following criteria are met:

- Has been diagnosed with an ID;
- Whose whereabouts are unknown;
- Is believed to be in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death because of the ID; and
- Is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Holscher.

### ***Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of InterHab, the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Autism Society of America. The proponents stated generally the bill would allow missing persons reports of adults with ID to reach a wider audience, could lead to faster location of the individuals when they wander, and reduce the risk of harm.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a private citizen.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Peace Officers Association, and the Kansas Sheriffs Association.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, who stated generally the definition would be difficult for organizations to provide a timely broadcast for an individual.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to clarify when a silver alert for a person 18 years of age or older with an ID would be issued.

## **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Attorney General, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, and Kansas

Bureau of Investigation indicate the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agencies.

The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal impact on cities, as law enforcement agencies would experience increased costs associated with enforcement and training.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill would have no impact on expenditures unless there was a significant increase in missing adults with intellectual disabilities.

Kansas Silver Alert Plan; missing person; intellectual disability