

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 287

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public
Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 287, as amended, would expand current provisions to permit the issuance of a silver alert for a missing person 18 years of age or older who has dementia, a developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder, or a cognitive impairment.

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 on March 20, 2023, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Autism Society–The Heartland who generally stated the addition of persons 18 years of age or older would allow families to have another resource to aid them if the need arose to locate an adult who may be missing.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities and Autism Society of America and Autism Society –The Heartland and two private citizens.

*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>

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of InterHab who provided language for an amendment to more clearly identify the individuals to be served by the bill.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Opponent testimony was provided by a private citizen who expressed concern regarding adults identified by the bill as vulnerable persons who may be leaving an abusive relationship and wrongfully returned when reported as a vulnerable person.

The Senate Committee amended the bill as follows:

- Removed “vulnerable person” as a person to be included in a silver alert;
- Added “a missing person who is 18 years of age or older and has dementia, a developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder, or a cognitive impairment” as the persons to be included in a silver alert; and,
- Removed the definition for “vulnerable person.”

Fiscal information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, and Kansas Highway Patrol all state the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

The Kansas Association of Counties states enactment of the bill could have an effect on counties depending on how they respond to silver alerts; however, a precise fiscal effect cannot be estimated. The League of Kansas Municipalities states that the bill would increase costs for law enforcement

agencies to enforce the provisions of the bill; however, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Kansas Silver Alert Plan; missing person; dementia; developmental disability; autism spectrum disorder; cognitive impairment