

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5945

To encourage, enhance, and integrate Green Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2018

Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. KIND, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To encourage, enhance, and integrate Green Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Corey Adams Search-
5 light Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **MISSING VETERAN.**—The term “missing
9 veteran” means an individual who—

1 (A) is reported to, or identified by, a law
2 enforcement agency as a missing person;

3 (B) is a veteran; and

4 (C) meets the requirements to be des-
5 ignated as a missing veteran, as determined by
6 the State in which the individual is reported or
7 identified as a missing person.

8 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
9 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
10 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
11 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
12 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

13 (3) GREEN ALERT.—The term “Green Alert”
14 means an alert issued through the Green Alert com-
15 munications network, related to a missing veteran.

16 (4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” means a
17 person who served in the Armed Forces.

18 **SEC. 3. GREEN ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, sub-
20 ject to the availability of appropriations, establish a na-
21 tional communications network, to be known as the Green
22 Alert communications network, within the Department of
23 Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search
24 efforts for missing veterans through the initiation, facilita-
25 tion, and promotion of local elements of the network (re-

ferred to in this Act as “Green Alert plans”), in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities with expertise in providing services to veterans.

(b) COORDINATION WITH AMBER ALERT NETWORK.—In establishing the Green Alert communications network under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall ensure that, when feasible, the Green Alert communications network is able to operate in coordination with the AMBER Alert communications network, established under subtitle A of title III of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), to maximize the efficiency of both networks.

SEC. 4. GREEN ALERT COORDINATOR.

(a) NATIONAL COORDINATOR WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall designate an individual of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Green Alert communications network. The individual so designated shall be known as the Green Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice (referred to in this Act as the “Coordinator”).

(b) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—In acting as the national coordinator of the Green Alert communications network, the Coordinator shall—

1 (1) work with States to encourage the develop-
2 ment of additional Green Alert plans in the network;

3 (2) establish voluntary guidelines for States to
4 use in developing Green Alert plans that will pro-
5 mote compatible and integrated Green Alert plans
6 throughout the United States, including—

7 (A) a list of the resources necessary to es-
8 tablish a Green Alert plan;

9 (B) criteria for evaluating whether a situa-
10 tion warrants issuing a Green Alert, taking into
11 consideration the need for the use of such
12 Alerts to be limited in scope because the effec-
13 tiveness of the Green Alert communications net-
14 work may be affected by overuse, including cri-
15 teria to determine—

16 (i) whether the mental or physical ca-
17 pacity of a veteran who is missing, and the
18 circumstances of his or her disappearance,
19 warrant the issuance of a Green Alert, in-
20 cluding whether the veteran has a condi-
21 tion related to the veteran's service in the
22 Armed Forces that increases the risk that
23 the veteran will harm himself or herself, or
24 another person; and

1 (ii) whether the individual who reports
2 that a veteran is missing is an appropriate
3 and credible source on which to base the
4 issuance of a Green Alert;

5 (C) a description of the appropriate uses of
6 the Green Alert name to readily identify the na-
7 ture of search efforts for missing veterans; and

8 (D) recommendations on how to protect
9 the privacy, dignity, independence, and auton-
10 omy of any missing veteran who may be the
11 subject of a Green Alert;

12 (3) develop proposed protocols for efforts to re-
13 cover missing veterans and to reduce the number of
14 veterans who are reported missing, including proto-
15 cols for procedures that are needed from the time of
16 initial notification of a law enforcement agency that
17 the veteran is missing through the time of the re-
18 turn of the veteran to family, guardian, or domicile,
19 as appropriate, including—

20 (A) public safety communications protocol;

21 (B) case management protocol;

22 (C) command center operations;

23 (D) reunification protocol; and

24 (E) incident review, evaluation, debriefing,

25 and public information procedures;

1 (4) work with States to ensure appropriate re-
2 gional coordination of various elements of the net-
3 work;

4 (5) establish an advisory group to assist States,
5 units of local government, law enforcement agencies,
6 and other entities involved in the Green Alert com-
7 munications network with initiating, facilitating, and
8 promoting Green Alert plans, which shall include—

9 (A) to the maximum extent practicable,
10 representation from the various geographic re-
11 gions of the United States; and

12 (B) members who are—

13 (i) representatives of veteran advocacy
14 groups, law enforcement agencies, and
15 public safety communications;

16 (ii) broadcasters, first responders, dis-
17 patchers, and radio station personnel; and

18 (iii) representatives of any other indi-
19 viduals or organizations that the Coordi-
20 nator determines are necessary to the suc-
21 cess of the Green Alert communications
22 network; and

23 (6) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

24 (A) the development of the network; and

1 (B) regional coordination of alerts for
2 missing veterans through the network.

3 (c) COORDINATION.—

4 (1) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—

5 The Coordinator shall coordinate and consult with
6 the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Com-
7 munications Commission, the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs, and other appropriate offices of the Depart-
9 ment of Justice in carrying out activities under this
10 Act.

11 (2) STATE AND LOCAL COORDINATION.—The
12 Coordinator shall consult with local broadcasters and
13 State and local law enforcement agencies in estab-
14 lishing minimum standards under section 5 and in
15 carrying out other activities under this Act, as ap-
16 propriate.

17 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
19 thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a re-
20 port on the activities of the Coordinator and the effective-
21 ness and status of the Green Alert plans of each State
22 that has established or is in the process of establishing
23 such a plan. Each such report shall include—

24 (1) a list of States that have established Green
25 Alert plans;

1 (2) a list of States that are in the process of
2 establishing Green Alert plans;

3 (3) for each State that has established such a
4 plan, to the extent the data is available—

5 (A) the number of Green Alerts issued;

6 (B) the number of individuals located suc-
7 cessfully;

8 (C) the average period of time between the
9 issuance of a Green Alert and the location of
10 the individual for whom such Alert was issued;

11 (D) the State agency or authority issuing
12 Green Alerts, and the process by which Green
13 Alerts are disseminated;

14 (E) the cost of establishing and operating
15 such a plan;

16 (F) the criteria used by the State to deter-
17 mine whether to issue a Green Alert; and

18 (G) the extent to which missing individuals
19 for whom Green Alerts were issued crossed
20 State lines;

21 (4) actions States have taken to protect the pri-
22 vacy and dignity of the individuals for whom Green
23 Alerts are issued;

24 (5) ways that States have facilitated and im-
25 proved communication about missing individuals be-

1 tween families, caregivers, law enforcement officials,
2 and other authorities; and

3 (6) any other information the Coordinator de-
4 termines to be appropriate.

5 **SEC. 5. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE AND DIS-**
6 **SEMINATION OF ALERTS THROUGH GREEN**
7 **ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STANDARDS.—

9 Subject to subsection (b), the Coordinator shall establish
10 minimum standards for—

11 (1) the issuance of alerts through the Green
12 Alert communications network; and

13 (2) the extent of the dissemination of alerts
14 issued through the network.

15 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

16 (1) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The min-
17 imum standards established under subsection (a) of
18 this section, and any other guidelines and programs
19 established under section 4, shall be adoptable on a
20 voluntary basis only.

21 (2) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The
22 minimum standards shall, to the maximum extent
23 practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in
24 consultation with State and local law enforcement
25 agencies), provide that appropriate information re-

1 lating to the special needs of a missing veteran (in-
2 cluding health care needs) are disseminated to the
3 appropriate law enforcement, public health, and
4 other public officials.

5 (3) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The minimum stand-
6 ards shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as
7 determined by the Coordinator in consultation with
8 State and local law enforcement agencies), provide
9 that the dissemination of an alert through the Green
10 Alert communications network be limited to the geo-
11 graphic areas which the missing veteran could rea-
12 sonably reach, considering the missing veteran’s cir-
13 cumstances and physical and mental condition, the
14 modes of transportation available to the missing vet-
15 eran, and the circumstances of the disappearance.

16 (4) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTEC-
17 TIONS.—The minimum standards shall—

18 (A) ensure that alerts issued through the
19 Green Alert communications network comply
20 with all applicable Federal, State, and local pri-
21 vacy laws and regulations; and

22 (B) include standards that specifically pro-
23 vide for the protection of the civil liberties and
24 sensitive medical information of missing vet-
25 erans.

1 (5) STATE AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY COORDINA-
2 TION.—In carrying out the activities under sub-
3 section (a), the Coordinator may not interfere with
4 the current system of voluntary coordination be-
5 tween local broadcasters and State and local law en-
6 forcement agencies for purposes of the Green Alert
7 communications network.

8 **SEC. 6. TRAINING AND OTHER RESOURCES.**

9 (a) TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.—The
10 Coordinator shall make available to States, units of local
11 government, law enforcement agencies, and other con-
12 cerned entities that are involved in initiating, facilitating,
13 or promoting Green Alert plans, including broadcasters,
14 first responders, dispatchers, public safety communica-
15 tions personnel, and radio station personnel—

16 (1) training and educational programs related
17 to the Green Alert communications network and the
18 capabilities, limitations, and anticipated behaviors of
19 missing veterans, which shall be updated regularly to
20 encourage the use of new tools, technologies, and re-
21 sources in Green Alert plans; and

22 (2) informational materials, including bro-
23 chures, videos, posters, and web sites to support and
24 supplement such training and educational programs.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**
2 **GREEN ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

3 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-
4 ney General \$500,000 to carry out the Green Alert com-
5 munications network as authorized under this Act.

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