

HB 2764 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Endangered Missing Person Alert System. Directs the Superintendent of State Police to create a task force to develop the system to enable rapid and effective dissemination of information related to missing persons to the public and to facilitate their quick location and recovery. Outlines criteria to be used to determine when endangered person alerts may be issued and terminated. Provides immunity from liability for persons, organizations, or entities that are involved in dissemination of the alerts. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Specifies that endangered person alerts may be issued for individuals on vacation and believed to be at a location in Oregon.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Police (OSP) maintain an online database of over 1,300 missing persons in Oregon, known as the Missing Children/Adults Clearinghouse, listing their county of residence at time of disappearance, the date when they were last seen, age when they were last seen, and their current age. A person is considered missing when their whereabouts are unknown, regardless of circumstance; they are added to the database once they are reported to a law enforcement agency. OSP is also the lead agency in Oregon for the America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Plan, better known as Amber Alert, which is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice and operates as a voluntary partnership between law enforcement, broadcasters and transportation agencies to activate urgent bulletins in certain child abduction cases.

House Bill 2764 establishes a new alert system to provide for a rapid response similar to an Amber Alert, in cases where an Amber Alert criteria does not apply. The Endangered Missing Person Alert could be issued in cases where the individual is missing as the result of abduction by a stranger that does not meet Amber Alert criteria; who is missing under circumstances that are unexplained, possibly criminal, or inherently dangerous; if the person is in need of medical attention or prescription medication; if the person was previously the victim of a threat or act of violence; or if the person is incapable of returning to their residence without assistance due to mental or physical capacity.

House Bill 2764 also directs the OSP Superintendent to stand up a task force to develop the Endangered Missing Person Alert System. Participants must include municipal, county, university, and state law enforcement; tribal governments; broadcasting and cable service providers; the Oregon Department of Emergency Management; and the Oregon Disabilities Commission.