

House Bill 2668

Sponsored by Representative OSBORNE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act says that private persons who help look for a missing person must first tell certain things to the family of the missing person and to the county sheriff. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.7).

Requires certain private persons, before engaging in search and rescue efforts, to make specified disclosures to the family of the missing person and to notify county sheriffs.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to search and rescue.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 5 of this 2025 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 404.095**
5 **to 404.270.**

6 **SECTION 2. As used in sections 2 to 5 of this 2025 Act:**

7 (1) **"Immediate family" has the meaning given that term in ORS 163.730.**

8 (2) **"Private search party" means any person that:**

9 (a) **Participates or offers to participate in an effort to locate a missing person;**

10 (b) **Is not acting as an agent of a public body with responsibility for search and rescue;**
11 **and**

12 (c) **Is not a qualified search and rescue volunteer as defined in ORS 404.200.**

13 (3) **"Public body" has the meaning given that term in ORS 174.109.**

14 **SECTION 3. (1) A private search party, before engaging in efforts to locate a missing**
15 **person, shall disclose to an immediate family member of the missing person, verbally and in**
16 **writing:**

17 (a) **That the private search party is not acting as an agent of a public body with respon-**
18 **sibility for search and rescue; and**

19 (b) **The nature of the private search party's involvement in the effort to locate the**
20 **missing person.**

21 (2) **A private search party shall notify an immediate family member of the missing per-**
22 **son, verbally and in writing, if the private search party:**

23 (a) **Intends to charge a fee for the private search party's services or assistance;**

24 (b) **Intends to request donations for the private search party's services or assistance; or**

25 (c) **Intends to derive profit from any production made in connection with the private**
26 **search party's services or assistance.**

27 **SECTION 4. (1) At least 72 hours before engaging in efforts to locate a missing person,**
28 **a private search party shall notify the sheriff of the county in which the efforts will take**
29 **place.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 **(2) A notification under this section must include the following information:**
2 **(a) The name, residence address and contact information for the private search party;**
3 **(b) The date of birth of the private search party;**
4 **(c) Whether the private search party holds certifications related to search and rescue,**
5 **emergency operations or medicine;**
6 **(d) The identity of the missing person;**
7 **(e) Whether the private search party intends to use dogs in the search effort;**
8 **(f) The anticipated time frame for the search efforts; and**
9 **(g) Which of the notifications described in section 3 (2) of this 2025 Act the private search**
10 **party is required to make, if any, and whether the private search party has made such no-**
11 **tifications.**

12 **(3) Notifications to sheriffs under this section may be made by telephone or through any**
13 **internet-based portal created for the purpose of making such notifications.**

14 **SECTION 5. A county may adopt an ordinance or resolution that imposes civil penalties**
15 **for failure to comply with the provisions of sections 2 to 5 of this 2025 Act.**

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