

# SENATE BILL 817

E4

4lr1923  
CF HB 195

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By: **Senators Ellis and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 24, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Missing Persons ~~With Cognitive Impairment~~ – Purple Alert**  
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Purple Alert Program to disseminate information to  
5 assist in locating a certain missing person ~~with certain cognitive impairments~~; and  
6 generally relating to the establishment of a Purple Alert Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 3–608

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 **3–608.**

16 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
17 **INDICATED.**

18 **(2) “CAREGIVER” MEANS A PARENT, SPOUSE, GUARDIAN, LEGAL**  
19 **CUSTODIAN, OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF ANOTHER ADULT.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (3) “DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
2 7-101(G) OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

3           (4) “INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
4 7-101(N) OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

5           (5) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” MEANS A STATE, COUNTY, OR  
6 MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OR A SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT.

7           (6) “MENTAL DISORDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-101 OF  
8 THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

9           ~~(6)~~ (7) “MISSING PERSON” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:

10           (I) WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN;

11           (II) 1. WHO ~~SUFFERS~~ HAS A COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT,  
12 MENTAL DISORDER, INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, OR BRAIN  
13 INJURY THAT IS NOT:

14                   ~~1.~~ A. ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE;

15                   ~~2.~~ B. DEMENTIA; OR

16                   ~~3.~~ C. A PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EMOTIONAL DISABILITY  
17 RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE; OR

18                   2. WHO IS DEAF, DEAFBLIND, HARD OF HEARING, OR  
19 LATE-DEAFENED;

20           (III) WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE POSES A CREDIBLE THREAT TO  
21 THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL DUE TO AGE, HEALTH, MENTAL OR  
22 PHYSICAL DISABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, OR WEATHER CONDITIONS, AS DETERMINED  
23 BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND

24           (IV) WHO DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION OF A  
25 SILVER ALERT UNDER § 3-604 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26           (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL ESTABLISH A  
27 PURPLE ALERT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM FOR RAPID DISSEMINATION OF  
28 INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN LOCATING A MISSING PERSON.

29           (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL:

1           **(I) ADOPT GUIDELINES AND DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR**  
2 **ISSUING A PURPLE ALERT FOR A MISSING PERSON;**

3           **(II) PROVIDE TRAINING TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
4 **AGENCIES ON THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED TO HANDLE A**  
5 **REPORT OF A MISSING PERSON;**

6           **(III) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
7 **AGENCY, AS NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN THE SAFE RECOVERY OF A MISSING PERSON;**

8           **(IV) RECRUIT PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND**  
9 **RADIO BROADCASTERS, LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE**  
10 **PUBLIC TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A PURPLE ALERT;**

11           **(V) CONSULT WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO**  
12 **ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO A PURPLE ALERT**  
13 **TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM LOCATED ACROSS**  
14 **THE STATE; AND**

15           **(VI) CONSULT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
16 **TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT:**

17                   **1. ALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ASSIST IN THE**  
18 **SEARCH FOR A MISSING PERSON UNDER THIS SECTION;**

19                   **2. COMPLIES WITH COMAR 13A.03.02.06; AND**

20                   **3. IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STUDENT**  
21 **SERVICE-LEARNING GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF**  
22 **EDUCATION.**

23           **(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE MAY CONSULT WITH**  
24 **RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTING CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES TO**  
25 **DEVELOP REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

26           **(C) A CAREGIVER OR PERSON FILING A REPORT REGARDING A MISSING**  
27 **PERSON IMMEDIATELY SHALL NOTIFY THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**  
28 **WITH WHICH THE REPORT WAS FILED AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE IF:**

29                   **(1) THE MISSING PERSON WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT IS**  
30 **LOCATED; AND**

1                   **(2) IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR**  
 2 **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MISSING PERSON**  
 3 **HAS BEEN LOCATED.**

4           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 5 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.