



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5319/1  
CMH:amn

## 2023 SENATE BILL 981

January 30, 2024 - Introduced by Senators JAMES, L. JOHNSON, SMITH, WIRCH and TESTIN, cosponsored by Representatives STUBBS, SPIROS, BARE, CONLEY, DITTRICH, GUNDRUM, JACOBSON, JOERS, MAXEY, MOORE OMOKUNDE, NOVAK, O'CONNOR, ORTIZ-VELEZ, RATCLIFF, SINICKI and SUMMERFIELD. Referred to Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families.

1     **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 175.51 (1m) (a); **to amend** 165.785 (2m) (a)  
2             1. and 2., 165.785 (2m) (b), 175.51 (title) and 175.51 (1m) (b); and **to create**  
3             175.51 (1m) (a) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** expanding alerts for missing  
4             adults to include certain missing children.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

The Department of Justice currently administers several alert systems, under which DOJ works with law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and others to disseminate information regarding certain cases involving endangered children, missing adults at risk, and veterans at risk. These alerts are commonly known respectively as Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, or Green Alerts.

Under current law, the Silver Alert applies to a missing person who is at least 18 if the person has a developmental disability or suffers from dementia, or who could, without access to medication, suffer from cognitive impairment that would likely render the adult incapable of getting to a familiar location alone. This bill expands the Silver Alert to include children if the situation is not covered by the Amber Alert, which requires a reasonable belief by law enforcement that the child was abducted and is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death and that if sufficient information is shared with the public, the alert will assist in finding the child. Under this bill, a Silver Alert could be issued for a missing person under 18 to whom an Amber Alert does not apply if the person is believed to be incapable of returning home without assistance due to a physical or mental condition or disability or if the person is under 10.

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For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 165.785 (2m) (a) 1. and 2. of the statutes are amended to read:

2           165.785 **(2m)** (a) 1. The department shall provide a form for reports of missing  
3 adults persons at risk under s. 175.51 (1m) and missing veterans at risk under s.  
4 175.51 (1v) that law enforcement agencies can access through the integrated crime  
5 alert network.

6           2. The department shall train law enforcement officers on identifying reports  
7 of adults persons at risk that are appropriate for dissemination under sub. (1) (b) 2.,  
8 using the form provided under subd. 1., and accessing the network to disseminate  
9 the report.

10          **SECTION 2.** 165.785 (2m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

11          165.785 **(2m)** (b) The department shall work directly with persons on the list  
12 maintained under par. (c) and with government agencies, broadcasters, and public  
13 and private organizations with missions focused on adults persons or veterans at  
14 risk to develop criteria for law enforcement officers to use to identify reports of  
15 missing adults persons or veterans at risk that are appropriate to disseminate under  
16 s. 175.51 (1m) or (1v), to determine the most effective methods and guidelines for the  
17 persons on the list maintained under par. (c) to use to broadcast or make public  
18 reports of missing adults persons or veterans at risk, and to receive feedback on the  
19 forms provided under par. (a) 1. and on the list maintained under par. (c).

20          **SECTION 3.** 175.51 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           **175.51** (title) **Reports of missing adults persons and veterans at risk**  
2 **and of hit-and-run incidents.**

3           **SECTION 4.** 175.51 (1m) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 175.51 (1m) (a) (intro.)  
4 and amended to read:

5           175.51 **(1m)** (a) (intro.) In this subsection, “adult “person at risk” means an one  
6 of the following:

7           1. An adult who has a developmental disability, who suffers from Alzheimer’s  
8 disease or dementia, or who suffers from or could, without access to medication,  
9 suffer from cognitive impairment if the impairment would likely render the adult  
10 incapable of getting to a familiar location without assistance.

11           **SECTION 5.** 175.51 (1m) (a) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

12           175.51 **(1m)** (a) 2. A person who has not attained the age of 18 years, whose  
13 location is unknown, and whose situation does not qualify for another alert and the  
14 person is believed to be incapable of returning home without assistance due to a  
15 physical or mental condition or disability or the person has not attained the age of  
16 10 years.

17           **SECTION 6.** 175.51 (1m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

18           175.51 **(1m)** (b) If a law enforcement agency receives a report of a missing adult  
19 person at risk, the law enforcement agency shall use the form under s. 165.785 (2m)  
20 (a) 1. to disseminate the report using the integrated crime alert network.

21           **(END)**