

2003 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2064

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled January 7, 2003

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 52 a section numbered 52-34.1, establishing a statewide Amber Alert Plan.

Patrons—Dudley, Athey, Byron, Carrico, Hurt, Marshall, D.W. and Weatherholtz

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 52 a section numbered 52-34.1 as follows:

§ 52-34.1. Virginia Amber Alert Plan.

For the purposes of this section, "abducted child" means any person who is under the age of 18 years, who is believed to have been abducted, whose whereabouts are unknown and whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the child.

The Department of State Police shall establish, implement, coordinate and manage a statewide abducted child alert program, known as the Virginia Amber Alert Plan, to rapidly publicize information that may lead to the recovery of an abducted child. The Department shall ensure that the Virginia Amber Alert Plan is a coordinated effort among the Department, local law-enforcement agencies, the state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters, the Virginia Department of Transportation and any other entities whose participation will assist in the administration of the Virginia Amber Alert Plan. The Department of State Police shall establish procedures for implementation of the Virginia Amber Alert Plan, including but not limited to, procedures for (i) local law-enforcement officers to follow in verifying and reporting an abducted child to the Department, (ii) the activation of the Virginia Amber Alert Plan through the Virginia emergency alert system and (iii) the coordination of local, regional and any other government-sponsored abducted child alert plans with the Virginia Amber Alert Plan.

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