

2003 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 694

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled October 17, 2002

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.

Patron—Deeds

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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 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 unwillingly taken without permission of the child's parent or guardian, 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 child abduction alert program, known as the Virginia Amber Alert Plan. 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 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 a child abduction to the Department, (ii) the Department to report the information to the Federal Communication Commission's designated state emergency alert system broadcaster and (iii) the coordination of local and regional child abduction alert plans with the Virginia Amber Alert Plan.

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