

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 52 a chapter numbered 7.4, consisting of*  
3 *sections numbered 52-34.10, 52-34.11, and 52-34.12, relating to establishment of the Virginia*  
4 *Critically Missing Adult Alert Program.*

5 [H 260]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 52 a chapter numbered 7.4, consisting**  
9 **of sections numbered 52-34.10, 52-34.11, and 52-34.12, as follows:**

10 **CHAPTER 7.4.**11 **VIRGINIA CRITICALLY MISSING ADULT ALERT PROGRAM.**12 **§ 52-34.10. Definitions.**13 *As used in this chapter:*

14 *"Critically missing adult" means an adult (i) whose whereabouts are unknown, (ii) who is believed to*  
15 *have been abducted, and (iii) whose disappearance poses a credible threat as determined by a*  
16 *law-enforcement agency to the health and safety of the adult and under such other circumstances as*  
17 *deemed appropriate by the Virginia State Police.*

18 *"Critically missing adult alert" means the notice of a critically missing adult provided to the public*  
19 *by the media or other methods under a Critically Missing Adult Alert Agreement.*

20 *"Critically Missing Adult Alert Agreement" means a voluntary agreement between law-enforcement*  
21 *officials and members of the media whereby an adult will be declared missing, and the public will be*  
22 *notified by media outlets, and includes all other incidental conditions of the partnership as found*  
23 *appropriate by the Virginia State Police.*

24 *"Critically Missing Adult Alert Program" means the procedures and Critically Missing Adult Alert*  
25 *Agreements to aid in the identification and location of a critically missing adult.*

26 *"Media" means print, radio, television, and Internet-based communication systems or other methods*  
27 *of communicating information to the public.*

28 **§ 52-34.11. Establishment of the Virginia Critically Missing Adult Alert Program.**

29 *The Virginia State Police shall develop policies for the establishment of uniform standards for the*  
30 *creation of Critically Missing Adult Alert Programs throughout the Commonwealth. The Virginia State*  
31 *Police shall (i) inform local law-enforcement officials of the policies and procedures to be used for the*  
32 *Critically Missing Adult Alert Programs; (ii) assist in determining the geographic scope of a particular*  
33 *Critically Missing Adult Alert; and (iii) establish procedures and standards by which a local*  
34 *law-enforcement agency shall verify that an adult is a critically missing adult and shall report such*  
35 *information to the Virginia State Police.*

36 *The establishment of a Critically Missing Adult Alert Program by a local law-enforcement agency*  
37 *and the media is voluntary, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to be a mandate that local*  
38 *officials or the media establish or participate in a Critically Missing Adult Alert Program.*

39 **§ 52-34.12. Activation of Critically Missing Adult Alert Program upon an incident of a critically**  
40 **missing adult.**

41 *A. Upon receipt of a notice of a critically missing adult from a law-enforcement agency, the Virginia*  
42 *State Police shall confirm the accuracy of the information and provide assistance in the activation of the*  
43 *Critically Missing Adult Alert Program as the investigation dictates.*

44 *B. Critically Missing Adult Alerts may be local, regional, or statewide. The initial decision to make a*  
45 *local Critically Missing Adult Alert shall be at the discretion of the local law-enforcement official. Prior*  
46 *to making a local Critically Missing Adult Alert, the local law-enforcement official shall confer with the*  
47 *Virginia State Police and provide information regarding the critically missing adult to the Virginia State*  
48 *Police. The decision to make a regional or statewide Critically Missing Adult Alert shall be at the*  
49 *discretion of the Virginia State Police.*

50 *C. The Critically Missing Adult Alert shall include the critically missing adult information as defined*  
51 *in § 15.2-1718.2 and any other such information as the law-enforcement agency deems appropriate that*  
52 *will assist in the safe recovery of the critically missing adult.*

53 *D. The Critically Missing Adult Alert shall be cancelled under the terms of the Critically Missing*  
54 *Adult Alert Agreement. Any local law-enforcement agency that locates a critically missing adult who is*  
55 *the subject of an alert shall notify the Virginia State Police immediately that the critically missing adult*  
56 *has been located.*