

Department of Planning and Budget
2020 Fiscal Impact Statement
Amended

1. Bill Number: HB65ER

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Miyares

3. Committee: Senate Judiciary

4. Title: Missing Child with Autism Alert Program.

5. Summary: Provides that the Department of State Police create a program for notification of a missing child with autism whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the child. The bill applies to any individual with autism spectrum disorder who is 17 years of age or younger, or is enrolled in a secondary school in the Commonwealth, regardless of age. The bill requires the Department to develop uniform standards for the creation of such a program, to inform local law enforcement agencies of the program's policies and procedures, and to determine the geographic scope of each alert issued. Local law enforcement agencies are required to confer with the Department and provide information regarding each missing child, according to the provisions of the bill.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: Under current law, the Department of State Police (VSP) establishes standards for Amber Alert programs across the Commonwealth, including coordinating with local law enforcement agencies on policies and procedures. Current law also requires proof that a child has been abducted for an Amber Alert to be issued. The bill would permit VSP to issue specialized alerts for children with autism spectrum disorder whose disappearance may not be due to an abduction, but nonetheless poses a credible threat to their health and safety. According to VSP, it does not expect any material fiscal impact on its operations as a result of this proposed legislation.

This bill also requires local law enforcement agencies to participate in this program, to comply with policies and procedures established by VSP, and to confer with VSP on each case to determine the geographic scope of the alert and to provide information on each missing child. The impact on local law enforcement agencies cannot be determined at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police; Local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.