

(e) Powers**(1) Hearings****(A) In general**

The State and Local Board may hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the State and Local Board considers appropriate to carry out the duties of the State and Local Board under this subchapter. The State and Local Board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

(B) Witness expenses

Witnesses requested to appear before the State and Local Board may be paid the same fees as are paid to witnesses under section 1821 of title 28. The per diem and mileage allowances for witnesses shall be paid from funds appropriated to the State and Local Board.

(2) Information from Federal agencies

Subject to sections 552, 552a, and 552b of title 5—

(A) the State and Local Board may secure directly from any Federal department or agency information necessary to enable it to carry out this subchapter; and

(B) upon request of the State and Local Board, the head of that department or agency shall furnish the information to the State and Local Board.

(3) Information to be kept confidential

The State and Local Board shall not disclose any information which may compromise an ongoing law enforcement investigation or is otherwise required by law to be kept confidential.

(f) Compensation**(1) In general**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State and Local Board member shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5 for each day (including travel time) during which such State and Local Board member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the State and Local Board.

(2) Prohibition of compensation for government employees

State and Local Board members who serve as officers or employees of the Federal Government or a State or a local government may not receive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the State and Local Board.

(3) Travel expenses

Each State and Local Board member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 110-298, title II, §203, July 31, 2008, 122 Stat. 2991.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 15253 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 50324. Presentation of State and Local Law Enforcement Badges**(a) Presentation by Member of Congress**

A Member of Congress may present a State and Local Law Enforcement Badge to any State and Local Law Enforcement Badge recipient who resides in such Member's congressional district. If both a Senator and Representative choose to present a State and Local Law Enforcement Badge, such Senator and Representative shall make a joint presentation.

(b) Presentation by Attorney General

If no Member of Congress chooses to present the State and Local Law Enforcement Badge as described in subsection (a), the Attorney General, or a designee of the Attorney General, shall present such State and Local Law Enforcement Badge.

(c) Presentation arrangements

The office of the Member of Congress presenting each State and Local Law Enforcement Badge may make arrangements for the presentation of such State and Local Law Enforcement Badge, and if a Senator and Representative choose to participate jointly as described in subsection (a), the Members shall make joint arrangements. The State and Local Board shall facilitate any such presentation arrangements as requested by the congressional office presenting the State and Local Law Enforcement Badge and shall make arrangements in cases not undertaken by Members of Congress.

(Pub. L. 110-298, title II, §204, July 31, 2008, 122 Stat. 2993.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 15254 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

SUBCHAPTER III—CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY OFFICE**§ 50331. Congressional Badge of Bravery Office****(a) Establishment**

There is established within the Department of Justice a Congressional Badge of Bravery Office.

(b) Duties

The Office shall—

(1) receive nominations from Federal agency heads on behalf of the Federal Board and deliver such nominations to the Federal Board at Federal Board meetings described in section 50313(d)(2) of this title;

(2) receive nominations from State or local agency heads on behalf of the State and Local Board and deliver such nominations to the State and Local Board at State and Local Board meetings described in section 50323(d)(2) of this title; and

(3) provide staff support to the Federal Board and the State and Local Board to carry out the duties described in section 50313(b) and section 50323(b) of this title, respectively.

(Pub. L. 110-298, title III, §301, July 31, 2008, 122 Stat. 2994.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 15261 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

CHAPTER 505—NATIONAL BLUE ALERT

Sec.	
50501.	Definitions.
50502.	Blue Alert communications network.
50503.	Blue Alert Coordinator; guidelines.

§ 50501. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Coordinator

The term “Coordinator” means the Blue Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice designated under section 50503(a) of this title.

(2) Blue Alert

The term “Blue Alert” means information sent through the network relating to—

- (A) the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty;
- (B) an officer who is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties; or
- (C) an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

(3) Blue Alert plan

The term “Blue Alert plan” means the plan of a State, unit of local government, or Federal agency participating in the network for the dissemination of information received as a Blue Alert.

(4) Law enforcement officer

The term “law enforcement officer” shall have the same meaning as in section 10284 of this title.

(5) Network

The term “network” means the Blue Alert communications network established by the Attorney General under section 50502 of this title.

(6) State

The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 114-12, §2, May 19, 2015, 129 Stat. 192.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14165 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 50502. Blue Alert communications network

The Attorney General shall establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities.

(Pub. L. 114-12, §3, May 19, 2015, 129 Stat. 193.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14165a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 50503. Blue Alert Coordinator; guidelines

(a) Coordination within Department of Justice

The Attorney General shall assign an existing officer of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network.

(b) Duties of the Coordinator

The Coordinator shall—

(1) provide assistance to States and units of local government that are using Blue Alert plans;

(2) establish voluntary guidelines for States and units of local government to use in developing Blue Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Blue Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

- (A) a list of the resources necessary to establish a Blue Alert plan;
- (B) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing a Blue Alert;
- (C) guidelines to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, and autonomy of any law enforcement officer who may be the subject of a Blue Alert and the family of the law enforcement officer;
- (D) guidelines that a Blue Alert should only be issued with respect to a law enforcement officer if—

(i) the law enforcement agency involved—

(I) confirms—

(aa) the death or serious injury of the law enforcement officer; or

(bb) the attack on the law enforcement officer and that there is an indication of the death or serious injury of the officer; or

(II) concludes that the law enforcement officer is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties;

(ii) there is an indication of serious injury to or death of the law enforcement officer;

(iii) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and

(iv) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;

(E) guidelines that a Blue Alert should only be issued with respect to a threat to cause death or serious injury to a law enforcement officer if—

(i) a law enforcement agency involved confirms that the threat is imminent and credible;

(ii) at the time of receipt of the threat, the suspect is wanted by a law enforcement agency;

(iii) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and

(iv) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;