

(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

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§ 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;