

tation 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.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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;

(F) guidelines—

(i) that information should be provided to the National Crime Information Center database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under section 534 of title 28, and any relevant crime information repository of the State involved, relating to—

(I) a law enforcement officer who is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty; or

(II) an imminent and credible threat to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer;

(ii) that a Blue Alert should, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law

enforcement agencies of States and units of local governments), be limited to the geographic areas most likely to facilitate the apprehension of the suspect involved or which the suspect could reasonably reach, which should not be limited to State lines;

(iii) for law enforcement agencies of States or units of local government to develop plans to communicate information to neighboring States to provide for seamless communication of a Blue Alert; and

(iv) providing that a Blue Alert should be suspended when the suspect involved is apprehended or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective; and

(G) guidelines for—

(i) the issuance of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(ii) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the network;

(3) develop protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects that address activities during the period beginning at the time of the initial notification of a law enforcement agency that a suspect has not been apprehended and ending at the time of apprehension of a suspect or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective, including protocols regulating—

(A) the use of public safety communications;

(B) command center operations; and

(C) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures;

(4) work with States to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

(5) establish an advisory group to assist States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans, which shall include—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

(B) members who are—

(i) representatives of a law enforcement organization representing rank-and-file officers;

(ii) representatives of other law enforcement agencies and public safety communications;

(iii) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

(iv) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the network;

(6) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

(A) the development of the network; and

(B) regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(7) determine—

(A) what procedures and practices are in use for notifying law enforcement and the public when—

(i) a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty;

(ii) a law enforcement officer is missing in connection with the officer's official duties; and

(iii) an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer is received; and

(B) which of the procedures and practices are effective and that do not require the expenditure of additional resources to implement.

**(c) Limitations**

**(1) Voluntary participation**

The guidelines established under subsection (b)(2), protocols developed under subsection (b)(3), and other programs established under subsection (b), shall not be mandatory.

**(2) Dissemination of information**

The guidelines established under subsection (b)(2) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government), provide that appropriate information relating to a Blue Alert is disseminated to the appropriate officials of law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, and other agencies.

**(3) Privacy and civil liberties protections**

The guidelines established under subsection (b) shall—

(A) provide mechanisms that ensure that Blue Alerts comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws and regulations; and

(B) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties, including the privacy, of law enforcement officers who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or who are threatened with death or serious injury, and the families of the officers.

**(d) Cooperation with other agencies**

The Coordinator shall cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Transportation, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and appropriate offices of the Department of Justice in carrying out activities under this chapter.

**(e) Restrictions on Coordinator**

The Coordinator may not—

(1) perform any official travel for the sole purpose of carrying out the duties of the Coordinator;

(2) lobby any officer of a State regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan; or

(3) host a conference focused solely on the Blue Alert program that requires the expenditure of Federal funds.

**(f) Reports**

Not later than 1 year after May 19, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of

the Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

(Pub. L. 114–12, § 4, May 19, 2015, 129 Stat. 193.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

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

**CHAPTER 507—LAW ENFORCEMENT SUICIDE DATA COLLECTION**

Sec.

50701. Information on suicide in law enforcement.

**§ 50701. Information on suicide in law enforcement**

**(a) Establishment**

Not later than 1 year after June 16, 2020, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall establish, for the purpose of preventing future law enforcement suicides and promoting understanding of suicide in law enforcement, the Law Enforcement Officers Suicide Data Collection Program, under which law enforcement agencies may submit to the Director information on suicides and attempted suicides within such law enforcement agencies, including information on—

(1) the circumstances and events that occurred before each suicide or attempted suicide;

(2) the general location of each suicide or attempted suicide;

(3) the demographic information of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide;

(4) the occupational category, including criminal investigator, corrections officer, line of duty officer, 911 dispatch operator, of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide; and

(5) the method used in each suicide or attempted suicide.

**(b) Policies**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall work with the Confidentiality and Data Access Committee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology to develop publication policies to manage the risk of identity disclosure based upon the best practices identified by other Federal statistical programs.

**(c) Report**

Not later than 2 years after June 16, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall submit to Congress and publish on the website of the Federal Bureau of Investigation a report containing the information submitted to the Director pursuant to subsection (a).

**(d) Confidentiality**

The report described under subsection (c) may not include any personally identifiable information of a law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide.

**(e) Definitions**

In this section—