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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 12

01/08/2015 Authored by Cornish, Lillie, Persell, Schoen, Ward and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance
02/05/2015 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Transportation Policy and Finance
02/18/2015 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
Read Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; creating a Blue Alert system to aid in the apprehension
1.3 of those who kill or injure law enforcement officers; proposing coding for new
1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 626.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [626.96] BLUE ALERT SYSTEM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of public safety shall establish a
1.8 Blue Alert system to aid in the identification, location, and apprehension of an individual
1.9 or individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding a local, state, or federal law
1.10 enforcement officer. The commissioner shall coordinate with local law enforcement
1.11 agencies and public and commercial television and radio broadcasters to provide an
1.12 effective alert system.

1.13 Subd. 2. Criteria and procedures. The commissioner, in consultation with
1.14 the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Minnesota Police and Peace
1.15 Officers Association, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, the Minnesota Sheriffs
1.16 Association, and the commissioner of transportation, shall develop criteria and procedures
1.17 for the Blue Alert system. By October 1, 2015, the commissioner shall adopt criteria
1.18 and procedures for the Blue Alert system.

1.19 Subd. 3. Oversight. The commissioner shall regularly review the function of the
1.20 Blue Alert system and revise its criteria and procedures to provide for efficient and
1.21 effective public notification.

1.22 Subd. 4. Scope. The Blue Alert system shall include all state and local agencies
1.23 capable of providing urgent and timely information to the public, together with

2.1 broadcasters and other private entities that volunteer to participate in the dissemination of
2.2 urgent public information.

2.3 Subd. 5. **Additional notice.** The commissioner may notify authorities and entities
2.4 outside of the state upon verification that the criteria established under this section have
2.5 been met.

2.6 Subd. 6. **False reports.** A person who knowingly makes a false report that triggers
2.7 an alert under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

2.8 Subd. 7. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer"
2.9 means any public servant having both the power and duty to make arrests for violations
2.10 of the laws of the state, and federal public servants authorized to carry firearms and to
2.11 make arrests for violations of the laws of the United States.