

By Senator Latvala

16-00243C-11

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to assault or battery of a law
3 enforcement officer; creating s. 784.071, F.S.;
4 requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to issue a
5 blue alert if a law enforcement officer has been
6 killed, suffered serious bodily injury, or been
7 assaulted and the suspect has fled the scene, or if a
8 law enforcement officer is missing while in the line
9 of duty; requiring that the blue alert be disseminated
10 on the emergency alert system through television,
11 radio, and highway signs; providing that emergency
12 traffic information may take precedence over blue
13 alert information; providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Section 784.071, Florida Statutes, is created to
18 read:

19 784.071 Assault or battery on a law enforcement officer;
20 missing while in line of duty; blue alert.-

21 (1) At the request of an authorized person employed at a
22 law enforcement agency, the Department of Law Enforcement, in
23 cooperation with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
24 Vehicles and the Department of Transportation, shall activate
25 the emergency alert system and issue a blue alert if all of the
26 following conditions are met:

27 (a)1. A law enforcement officer has been killed, has
28 suffered serious bodily injury, or has been assaulted with a
29 deadly weapon; or

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30 2. A law enforcement officer is missing while in the line
31 of duty under circumstances evidencing concern for the law
32 enforcement officer's safety;

33 (b) The suspect has fled the scene of the offense;

34 (c) The law enforcement agency investigating the offense
35 determines that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the
36 public or to other law enforcement officers;

37 (d) A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle, or
38 other means of escape, or the license plate of the suspect's
39 vehicle is available for broadcasting;

40 (e) Dissemination of available information to the public
41 may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the
42 suspect; and

43 (f) If the law enforcement officer is missing, there is
44 sufficient information available relating to the officer's last
45 known location and physical description, and the description of
46 any vehicle involved, including the license plate number or
47 other identifying information, to be broadcast to the public and
48 other law enforcement agencies, which could assist in locating
49 the missing law enforcement officer.

50 (2) (a) The blue alert shall be immediately disseminated to
51 the public through the emergency alert system by broadcasting
52 the alert on television, radio, and the dynamic message signs
53 that are located along the state's highways.

54 (b) If a traffic emergency arises requiring that
55 information pertaining to the traffic emergency be displayed on
56 a highway message sign in lieu of the blue alert information,
57 the agency responsible for displaying information on the highway
58 message sign is not in violation of this section.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2011.