

House Bill 794

By: Representative Stanley-Turner of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 emergency management, so as to provide a short title; to define certain terms; to provide for
3 a state-wide alert system for missing disabled adults; to provide for rules and regulations; to
4 provide for cooperation with broadcasters; to provide for calling an alert; to provide for
5 conditions; to provide that the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall devise a method of
6 notifying vendors in an alert area of the alert; to provide for termination of an alert; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency
11 management, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new article to read as follows:

12 "ARTICLE 7

13 38-3-110.

14 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Mattie's Call Act.'

15 38-3-111.

16 As used in this article, the term:

17 (1) 'Alert system' means the state-wide 'Mattie's Call' alert system for missing disabled
18 adults.

19 (2) 'Disabled adult' means an adult who is developmentally impaired or who suffers from
20 dementia.

21 (3) 'Local law enforcement agency' means a local law enforcement agency with
22 jurisdiction over the investigation of a missing disabled adult.

1 38-3-112.

2 With the cooperation of the office of the Governor, the Georgia Lottery Corporation, and
3 other appropriate law enforcement agencies in this state, the department shall develop and
4 implement a state-wide alert system to be activated on behalf of missing disabled adults.

5 38-3-113.

6 (a) The director is the state-wide coordinator of the alert system.

7 (b) The director shall adopt rules and issue directives as necessary to ensure proper
8 implementation of the alert system. The rules and directives must include instructions on
9 the procedures for activating and deactivating the alert system.

10 (c) The director shall prescribe forms for use by local law enforcement agencies in
11 requesting activation of the alert system.

12 38-3-114.

13 (a) The agency shall recruit public and commercial television and radio broadcasters,
14 private commercial entities, state or local governmental entities, the public, and other
15 appropriate persons to assist in developing and implementing the alert system.

16 (b) The agency may enter into agreements with participants in the alert system to provide
17 necessary support for the alert system.

18 38-3-115.

19 (a) On notification by a local law enforcement agency that a disabled adult is missing, the
20 director shall activate the alert system and notify appropriate participants in the alert
21 system, as established by rule, if:

22 (1) A local law enforcement agency believes that a disabled adult is missing;

23 (2) A local law enforcement agency believes that the disabled adult is in immediate
24 danger of serious bodily injury or death;

25 (3) A local law enforcement agency confirms that an investigation has taken place that
26 verifies the disappearance and eliminates alternative explanations for the disabled adult's
27 disappearance; and

28 (4) Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in
29 locating the disabled adult.

30 (b) The area of the alert may be less than state wide if the director determines that the
31 nature of the event makes it probable that the disabled adult did not leave a certain
32 geographic location.

33 (c) The agency may modify the criteria described by subsection (a) of this Code section
34 as necessary for the proper implementation of the alert system.

1 38-3-116.

2 Before requesting activation of the alert system, a local law enforcement agency must
3 verify that the criteria described by subsection (a) of Code Section 38-3-115 have been
4 satisfied. The local law enforcement agency shall assess the appropriate boundaries of the
5 alert, based on the nature of the disabled adult and the circumstances surrounding the
6 disappearance. On verification of the criteria, the local law enforcement agency shall
7 immediately contact the agency to request activation and shall supply the necessary
8 information on the forms prescribed by the director.

9 38-3-117.

10 (a) A state agency participating in the alert system shall:

11 (1) Cooperate with the department and assist in developing and implementing the alert
12 system; and

13 (2) Establish a plan for providing relevant information to its officers, investigators, or
14 employees, as appropriate, once the alert system has been activated.

15 (b) The Georgia Lottery Corporation is directed to develop a method of notifying its
16 vendors within an alert area of an alert in a manner designed to disseminate alert
17 information to customers at its retail locations.

18 38-3-118.

19 The director shall terminate any activation of the alert system with respect to a particular
20 disabled adult if:

21 (1) The adult is located or the disappearance is otherwise resolved; or

22 (2) The director determines that the alert system is no longer an effective tool for
23 locating and recovering the disabled adult."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.