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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/13

SPONSOR Pacheco LAST UPDATED _____ HB 131

SHORT TITLE Silver Alert for Endangered Persons SB _____

ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 131 creates a Silver Alert Advisory allowing the Department of Public Safety to issue a Silver Alert, if after reviewing and investigating the facts surrounding a missing persons report, the Department makes an independent determination that the person missing is subject to the alert. Paragraph B requires the Department to develop and implement a Silver Alert procedure for the purpose of disseminating as rapidly as possible information regarding the subject of the alert, including notification to the lead station regarding the Silver Alert, notification to other public and private media sources as necessary, and providing information about the subject of the Silver Alert including all identifying information to the lead station and other media sources. Further, the bill amends Section 29-15-2 NMSA 1978 by adding to the definition of custodian to include a person who performs one or more activities of daily living for an adult; and, the bill defines “silver alert”.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The department of public safety currently provides amber alerts and would incorporate silver alerts into their operation with no additional revenue.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As the percentage of elderly people with Alzheimer’s or other serious cognitive deficits increases, the number of adults who go missing is expected to increase. More than 30 states have implemented versions of the silver alert, often in response to tragic cases of missing elderly adults with dementia or other age related illnesses. An early concern that the public would become indifferent to amber alerts has not occurred and the retrieval rate of silver alert cases has been very high. The bill expands the definition of custodian to include people who perform one or more activities of daily living (feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting & functional mobility) for the endangered adult.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

There will be no single entity that will disseminate valid alerts of missing older adults to the targeted media. Families and communities would more likely make uncoordinated appeals to a variety of media outlets which do not have the capacity to verify reports. In addition, for vulnerable older adults with dementia or Alzheimer’s, the potential for serious bodily injury or death is high when they are missing for more than 24 hours.

EC/bm