

MISSING SENIOR OR VULNERABLE ADULT MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM PLAN

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4362 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Gina Johnsen
Committee: Families and Veterans
Complete to 7-23-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4362 would amend the Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act to require the Department of State Police (MSP) to establish and maintain a missing senior or vulnerable adult medical alert system plan. The plan would have to be designed to rapidly disseminate useful information to wireless devices in a predetermined manner through the existing wireless emergency medical alert system operated under federal law.

Upon completing a *report*, a law enforcement agency would have to notify MSP of the *missing senior or vulnerable adult* and request that a medical alert be issued under the plan. (See **Background**, below, for a description of reports prepared under the act and definitions of applicable terms.) The plan could be activated only after a report is completed, and only in compliance with policies established by MSP.

MCL 28.715

BACKGROUND:

Under the Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act, a law enforcement agency that receives notice of a *missing senior or vulnerable adult* from a *person familiar with the missing senior or vulnerable adult* must prepare a report that includes all of the following:

- Relevant information from the notification, including the following:
 - A physical description of the missing senior or vulnerable adult.
 - The date, time, and place that the missing senior or vulnerable adult was last seen.
 - The missing senior's or vulnerable adult's address.
- Information gathered by a preliminary investigation, if one was made.
- A statement by the law enforcement officer in charge that sets forth that officer's assessment of the case based upon the evidence and information received.

Missing senior or vulnerable adult means a Michigan resident who is one of the following:

- At least 60 years old, believed to be incapable of returning to their residence without assistance, and reported missing by a person familiar with them.
- A *vulnerable adult* who is reported missing by a person familiar with them.
- A person who is missing and suffering from senility or a physical or mental condition that subjects them or others to personal and immediate danger.

Vulnerable adult means one or more of the following:

- An individual 18 years of age or older who, because of age, developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability, requires supervision or

personal care or lacks the personal and social skills required to live independently.

- A person 18 years of age or older who is unable to protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation because of a mental or physical impairment or advanced age and who is suspected of being abused, neglected, or exploited.¹
- A child who is placed in an adult foster care family home or an adult foster care small group home under the child care licensing act, 1973 PA 116.

Person familiar with the missing senior or vulnerable adult means a missing senior's or vulnerable adult's guardian, custodian, or guardian ad litem or an individual who provides the missing senior or vulnerable adult with home health aid services, possesses a health care power of attorney for the missing senior or vulnerable adult, has proof that the missing senior or vulnerable adult has a medical condition, or otherwise has information regarding the missing senior or vulnerable adult.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4362 could have a nominal fiscal impact on the Department of State Police. The creation of a missing senior or vulnerable adult medical alert system plan and the integration of corresponding alerts into the existing wireless emergency alert system may result in increased costs for MSP that could likely be absorbed by existing appropriations.

The bill could also have an indeterminate, but likely minimal, fiscal impact on local law enforcement agencies. Local law enforcement agencies are already required to produce and disseminate missing senior or vulnerable adult reports to various entities. Any new administrative costs associated with sending those reports to MSP, as required by the bill, would likely be incidental; however, the extent of these costs cannot be predicted with certainty, as the number of required reports under the act varies from year to year.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following organizations testified in support of the bill (6-3-25):

- Area Aging on Agency of Western Michigan
- Friendship Centers of Emmet County

The following organizations indicated support for the bill (6-3-25):

- Michigan County Social Services Association
- Michigan State Employee Retirees Association

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ For the definitions of “abuse,” “neglect,” and “exploitation” that pertain to this provision, see MCL 400.11: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-400-11.pdf>