

(5) Network

The term “network” means the Blue Alert communications network established by the Attorney General under section 50502 of this title.

(6) State

The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 114-12, § 2, May 19, 2015, 129 Stat. 192.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14165 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

For short title of Pub. L. 114-12, which is classified to this chapter, as the “Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015”, see section 1 of Pub. L. 114-12, set out as a Short Title of 2015 Act note under section 10101 of this title.

§ 50502. Blue Alert communications network

The Attorney General shall establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities.

(Pub. L. 114-12, § 3, May 19, 2015, 129 Stat. 193.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14165a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 50503. Blue Alert Coordinator; guidelines**(a) Coordination within Department of Justice**

The Attorney General shall assign an existing officer of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network.

(b) Duties of the Coordinator

The Coordinator shall—

(1) provide assistance to States and units of local government that are using Blue Alert plans;

(2) establish voluntary guidelines for States and units of local government to use in developing Blue Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Blue Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

(A) a list of the resources necessary to establish a Blue Alert plan;

(B) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing a Blue Alert;

(C) guidelines to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, and autonomy of any

law enforcement officer who may be the subject of a Blue Alert and the family of the law enforcement officer;

(D) guidelines that a Blue Alert should only be issued with respect to a law enforcement officer if—

(i) the law enforcement agency involved—

(I) confirms—

(aa) the death or serious injury of the law enforcement officer; or

(bb) the attack on the law enforcement officer and that there is an indication of the death or serious injury of the officer; or

(II) concludes that the law enforcement officer is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties;

(ii) there is an indication of serious injury to or death of the law enforcement officer;

(iii) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and

(iv) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;

(E) guidelines that a Blue Alert should only be issued with respect to a threat to cause death or serious injury to a law enforcement officer if—

(i) a law enforcement agency involved confirms that the threat is imminent and credible;

(ii) at the time of receipt of the threat, the suspect is wanted by a law enforcement agency;

(iii) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and

(iv) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;

(F) guidelines—

(i) that information should be provided to the National Crime Information Center database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under section 534 of title 28, and any relevant crime information repository of the State involved, relating to—

(I) a law enforcement officer who is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty; or

(II) an imminent and credible threat to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer;

(ii) that a Blue Alert should, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local governments), be limited to the geographic areas most likely to facilitate the apprehension of the suspect involved or which the suspect could reasonably reach, which should not be limited to State lines;

(iii) for law enforcement agencies of States or units of local government to develop plans to communicate information to neighboring States to provide for seamless communication of a Blue Alert; and

(iv) providing that a Blue Alert should be suspended when the suspect involved is apprehended or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective; and

(G) guidelines for—

(i) the issuance of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(ii) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the network;

(3) develop protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects that address activities during the period beginning at the time of the initial notification of a law enforcement agency that a suspect has not been apprehended and ending at the time of apprehension of a suspect or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective, including protocols regulating—

(A) the use of public safety communications;

(B) command center operations; and

(C) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures;

(4) work with States to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

(5) establish an advisory group to assist States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans, which shall include—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

(B) members who are—

(i) representatives of a law enforcement organization representing rank-and-file officers;

(ii) representatives of other law enforcement agencies and public safety communications;

(iii) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

(iv) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the network;

(6) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

(A) the development of the network; and

(B) regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(7) determine—

(A) what procedures and practices are in use for notifying law enforcement and the public when—

(i) a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty;

(ii) a law enforcement officer is missing in connection with the officer's official duties; and

(iii) an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer is received; and

(B) which of the procedures and practices are effective and that do not require the ex-

penditure of additional resources to implement.

(c) Limitations

(1) Voluntary participation

The guidelines established under subsection (b)(2), protocols developed under subsection (b)(3), and other programs established under subsection (b), shall not be mandatory.

(2) Dissemination of information

The guidelines established under subsection (b)(2) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government), provide that appropriate information relating to a Blue Alert is disseminated to the appropriate officials of law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, and other agencies.

(3) Privacy and civil liberties protections

The guidelines established under subsection (b) shall—

(A) provide mechanisms that ensure that Blue Alerts comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws and regulations; and

(B) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties, including the privacy, of law enforcement officers who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or who are threatened with death or serious injury, and the families of the officers.

(d) Cooperation with other agencies

The Coordinator shall cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Transportation, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and appropriate offices of the Department of Justice in carrying out activities under this chapter.

(e) Restrictions on Coordinator

The Coordinator may not—

(1) perform any official travel for the sole purpose of carrying out the duties of the Coordinator;

(2) lobby any officer of a State regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan; or

(3) host a conference focused solely on the Blue Alert program that requires the expenditure of Federal funds.

(f) Reports

Not later than 1 year after May 19, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of the Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

(Pub. L. 114–12, § 4, May 19, 2015, 129 Stat. 193.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14165b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**CHAPTER 507—LAW ENFORCEMENT SUICIDE
DATA COLLECTION**

Sec.
50701. Information on suicide in law enforcement.

§ 50701. Information on suicide in law enforcement

(a) Establishment

Not later than 1 year after June 16, 2020, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall establish, for the purpose of preventing future law enforcement suicides and promoting understanding of suicide in law enforcement, the Law Enforcement Officers Suicide Data Collection Program, under which law enforcement agencies may submit to the Director information on suicides and attempted suicides within such law enforcement agencies, including information on—

- (1) the circumstances and events that occurred before each suicide or attempted suicide;
- (2) the general location of each suicide or attempted suicide;
- (3) the demographic information of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide;
- (4) the occupational category, including criminal investigator, corrections officer, line of duty officer, 911 dispatch operator, of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide; and
- (5) the method used in each suicide or attempted suicide.

(b) Policies

The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall work with the Confidentiality and Data Access Committee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology to develop publication policies to manage the risk of identity disclosure based upon the best practices identified by other Federal statistical programs.

(c) Report

Not later than 2 years after June 16, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall submit to Congress and publish on the website of the Federal Bureau of Investigation a report containing the information submitted to the Director pursuant to subsection (a).

(d) Confidentiality

The report described under subsection (c) may not include any personally identifiable information of a law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide.

(e) Definitions

In this section—

- (1) the term “law enforcement agency” means a Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency engaged in the prevention, detection, or investigation, prosecution, or adjudication of any violation of the criminal laws of the United States, a State, Tribal, or a political subdivision of a State;
- (2) the term “law enforcement officer” means any current or former officer (including

a correctional officer), agent, or employee of the United States, a State, Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of the criminal laws of the United States, a State, Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State; and

(3) the term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(Pub. L. 116-143, § 2, June 16, 2020, 134 Stat. 644.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

For short title of Pub. L. 116-143, which is classified to this chapter, as the “Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act”, see section 1 of Pub. L. 116-143, set out as a Short Title of 2020 Amendment note under section 10101 of this title.

CHAPTER 509—CONFIDENTIALITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING

Sec.
50901. Confidentiality of peer support communications.
50902. Best practices and support.

§ 50901. Confidentiality of peer support communications

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Law enforcement agency

The term “law enforcement agency” means a Federal agency that employs a law enforcement officer.

(2) Law enforcement officer

The term “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term “Federal law enforcement officer” in section 115 of title 18.

(3) Peer support communication

The term “peer support communication” includes—

- (A) an oral or written communication made in the course of a peer support counseling session;
- (B) a note or report arising out of a peer support counseling session;
- (C) a record of a peer support counseling session; or
- (D) with respect to a communication made by a peer support participant in the course of a peer support counseling session, another communication, regarding the first communication, that is made between a peer support specialist and—
 - (i) another peer support specialist;
 - (ii) a staff member of a peer support counseling program; or
 - (iii) a supervisor of the peer support specialist.

(4) Peer support counseling program

The term “peer support counseling program” means a program provided by a law enforcement agency that provides counseling services from a peer support specialist to a law enforcement officer of the agency.