

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY OF H.R. 5898 – SILVER ALERT GRANT PROGRAM ACT OF 2008

Section 1 – SHORT TITLE

This section specifies that the bill title is the Silver Alert Grant Program Act

Section 2 – PURPOSES

This section specifies the purposes of the bill, which are to (1) create a federal grant program to help states establish or improve upon their Silver Alert notification systems, (2) promote best practices to help guide in the establishment of such systems, and (3) increase awareness about the importance of coordinated efforts to locate missing individuals suffering from dementia-related illnesses.

Section 3 – FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS

This section includes eight findings clauses regarding Alzheimer's disease and state efforts to establish Silver Alert notification systems. This section also includes several sense of Congress clauses that provide non-binding federal guidance on factors that states should take into account when establishing such systems.

Section 4 – SILVER ALERT SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM

This section establishes within the Department of Justice a grant program to help states establish or improve upon their Silver Alert notification systems. These grants can be awarded and renewed annually. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$5.6 million each year for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 for this purpose. The bill also ensures a minimum award of at least \$100,000 for each state with an approved application under this section, and directs the Attorney General to determine eligibility, application, and selection criteria for states seeking grant funding.

Section 5 – ANNUAL REPORT ON SILVER ALERT SYSTEMS

This section requires the Attorney General to report to Congress on states that have established Silver Alert systems. This annual report would provide information on best practices that will help guide states in the development of similar systems.

Section 6 – DEFINITIONS

This section defines Silver Alert System as a state-administered notification system to help locate missing individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses. This section also defines state to mean all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.