



NATIONAL BLUE ALERT ACT OF 2013 (S. 357/ H. R. 180) FACT SHEET

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

- Establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice (DOJ) in coordination with federal, state, and local Blue Alert plans.
- Assign an existing DOJ officer to act as the national coordinator for the Blue Alert communications network.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR:

- Provide assistance to states and local governments that are using Blue Alert plans and establish voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing such plans. These guidelines must:
 - Provide that appropriate information relating to a Blue Alert is disseminated to officials of law enforcement, public health, and other agencies; and
 - Provide mechanisms that ensure that Blue Alerts comply with all applicable federal, state, and local privacy laws and regulations and include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties of law enforcement officers and their families.
- Develop protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects.
- Establish an advisory group to assist states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other entities in initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans.
- Determine what procedures and practices are in use for notifying law enforcement and the public when a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty and which of the procedures and practices are effective and do not require the expenditure of additional resources to implement.
- The National Coordinator is prohibited from performing any official travel for the sole purpose of carrying out the duties of the coordinator, lobbying any officer of a state regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan, or hosting a conference focused solely on the Blue Alert program that required the expenditure of federal funds.