S 657

National Blue Alert Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement
Introduced: Mar 28, 2011
Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 160.
Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 160. (Sep 8, 2011)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/657

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]
Party: Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 28, 2011
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Mar 28, 2011
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 28, 2011
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 28, 2011
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 28, 2011
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 2, 2011
Sen. Kyl, Jon [R-AZ]	R · AZ		May 3, 2011
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 12, 2011
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		May 17, 2011
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2011
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2011
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 7, 2012
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 4, 2012
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 19, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 8, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 365	Identical bill	**May 16, 2012:** Received in the Senate.

Summary (as of Sep 8, 2011)

National Blue Alert Act of 2011 - Directs the Attorney General to: (1) establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice (DOJ) to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, and (2) assign an existing DOJ officer to act as the national coordinator of such network.

Sets forth the duties of the national coordinator, including: (1) providing assistance to states and local governments that are using Blue Alert plans; (2) establishing voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing such plans; (3) developing protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects that address activities during the period between the initial notification of a law enforcement agency that a suspect has not been apprehended and the time of apprehension of the suspect, or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective; (4) working with states to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network; (5) establishing an advisory group to assist states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other entities in initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans; (6) acting as the nationwide point of contact for the development of the network and regional coordination of Blue Alerts; and (7) determining which procedures and practices for notifying law enforcement and the public when a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured are effective and do not require the expenditure of additional resources to implement.

Prohibits the national coordinator from: (1) lobbying any officer of a state regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan, or (2) hosting a conference focused solely on the Blue Alert program that requires the expenditure of federal funds.

Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to: (1) authorize public safety and community policing grants to be used to assist states in developing and enhancing programs and activities in support of a Blue Alert plan and communications network, and (2) authorize appropriations for such purpose.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 8, 2011:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Sep 8, 2011:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Leahy with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Sep 8, 2011:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 160.
- **Mar 28, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 28, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1898-1899)
- **Mar 28, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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