

## S 357

National Blue Alert Act of 2013

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Crime and Law Enforcement

**Introduced:** Feb 14, 2013

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 194.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 194. (Sep 19, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/357>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 19, 2013

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 180	Identical bill	<b>Dec 20, 2013:</b> Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 284.

**(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary of that version is repeated here.)**

National Blue Alert Act of 2013 - 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, in coordination with federal, state, and local Blue Alert plans; and (2) assign an existing DOJ officer to act as the national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications 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; (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 the regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network; and (7) determining 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.

Requires the guidelines to: (1) provide that appropriate information relating to a Blue Alert is disseminated to officials of law enforcement, public health, and other agencies; and (2) 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.

Directs the coordinator to annually submit a report on the coordinator's activities and the effectiveness and status of the Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

### **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Sep 19, 2013:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Sep 19, 2013:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Leahy without amendment. Without written report.
- **Sep 19, 2013:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 194.
- **Feb 14, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 14, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S782-783)
- **Feb 14, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.