

S 665

Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Mar 4, 2015

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 114-12.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 114-12. (May 19, 2015)

Law: 114-12 (Enacted May 19, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/665>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (27 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 12, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 24, 2015
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 24, 2015
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 25, 2015
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 25, 2015
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Apr 13, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Apr 27, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 26, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	May 5, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1269	Identical bill	Mar 31, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the Senate reported version is repeated here.)

Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015

(Sec. 3) Directs the Attorney General to: (1) establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice (DOJ) to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans for the dissemination of information received as a Blue Alert, in coordination with states, local governments, and law enforcement agencies; and (2) assign an existing DOJ officer to act as the national coordinator of the network.

Defines "Blue Alert" as information sent through the network relating to: (1) the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, (2) an officer who is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or (3) an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

(Sec. 4) Sets forth the duties of the national coordinator, including:

- providing assistance to states and local governments that are using Blue Alert plans;
- establishing voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing such plans;
- developing protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects;
- working with states to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;
- establishing an advisory group to assist states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other entities in initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans;
- acting as the nationwide point of contact for the development of the network and the regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network; and
- determining what procedures and practices are in use for notifying law enforcement and the public of a Blue Alert and which 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; (2) provide mechanisms that ensure that Blue Alerts comply with all applicable federal, state, and local privacy laws and regulations; and (3) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties of law enforcement officers and their families.

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

Actions Timeline

- **May 19, 2015:** Signed by President.
- **May 19, 2015:** Became Public Law No: 114-12.
- **May 14, 2015:** Presented to President.
- **May 12, 2015:** Mr. Goodlatte moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **May 12, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2840-2846)
- **May 12, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 665.
- **May 12, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H2840-2841)
- **May 12, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H2840-2841)
- **May 12, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **May 5, 2015:** Received in the House.
- **May 5, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
- **May 4, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.(consideration: CR S2587-2589; text as passed Senate: CR S2588-2589)
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S2587-2589; text as passed Senate: CR S2588-2589)
- **Mar 26, 2015:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Mar 26, 2015:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Grassley without amendment. Without written report.
- **Mar 26, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 33.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1307)