

SENATE, No. 4790

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI
District 22 (Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS
Clarifies when MVP Emergency Alert may be issued.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning MVP Emergency Alerts and amending
2 P.L.2015, c.184.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.184 (C.52:17B-194.10) is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 2. An MVP Emergency Alert authorized under this section may
10 be activated in accordance with the following requirements, which
11 shall be incorporated into the guidelines required by subsection c.
12 of section 1 of P.L.2015, c.184 (C.52:17B-194.9):

13 a. The law enforcement agency receiving the missing person
14 report shall be the lead law enforcement agency.

15 b. The Missing Persons and Child Exploitation Unit in the
16 Division of State Police, upon request, shall assist the lead law
17 enforcement agency in the investigation of an MVP Emergency
18 Alert.

19 c. Each of the following criteria shall be met before an MVP
20 Emergency Alert may be issued:

21 (1) the person believed to be missing is believed to have a
22 mental, intellectual, or developmental disability or defect,
23 regardless of age;

24 (2) a missing person report has been submitted to the local law
25 enforcement agency where the person went missing;

26 (3) the person believed to be missing may be in danger of death
27 or serious bodily injury;

28 (4) there is sufficient information available to indicate that an
29 MVP Emergency Alert would assist in locating the missing
30 vulnerable person~~[,]~~ including, but not limited to, information
31 indicating ~~that at the time the person went missing the person was~~
32 ~~the operator of, a passenger in, or otherwise conveyed by a motor~~
33 ~~vehicle]~~ the manner in which the person was traveling at the time
34 the person went missing, such as by motor vehicle, foot, or bicycle;
35 and

36 (5) sufficient information is available to disseminate to the
37 public that could assist in locating the person, ~~including but not~~
38 ~~limited to]~~ such as accurate information concerning any motor
39 vehicle the person may have been operating, or in which the person
40 may have been a passenger or otherwise conveyed, if applicable.

41 (cf: P.L.2015, c.184, s.2)

42
43 2. Section 3 of P.L.2015, c.184 (C.52:17B-194.11) is amended
44 to read as follows:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 3. a. When an MVP Emergency Alert is activated pursuant to
2 section 2 of P.L.2015, c.184 (C.52:17B-194.10), the participating
3 media shall voluntarily agree, upon notice from the State Police, to
4 transmit emergency alerts to inform the public of a missing
5 vulnerable person who resides within their broadcast service
6 regions. The notice shall be provided through the State Police
7 operational dispatch unit.

8 b. The alerts shall be broadcast as often as possible, pursuant to
9 the guidelines established by the New Jersey Broadcasters**[']**
10 Association, for the first three hours. After the initial three hours,
11 the alert shall be rebroadcast at such intervals as the investigating
12 authority, the State Police, and the participating media deem
13 appropriate.

14 c. The alerts shall include a description of the missing
15 vulnerable person, including notice that the missing vulnerable
16 person may appear agitated or upset, instructions as to whether the
17 missing vulnerable person should be approached and, if appropriate,
18 instructions on how to approach the missing vulnerable person, and
19 such other information as the State Police may deem pertinent and
20 appropriate. The alerts also shall provide information concerning
21 how those members of the public who have information relating to
22 the missing vulnerable person may contact the State Police or other
23 appropriate law enforcement agency.

24 d. **【**When a determination is made by the lead agency, and the
25 State Police concur**】** If the lead agency determines, and the State
26 Police concur, that sufficient information **【**indicating**】** indicates that
27 at the time the person went missing the person was the operator of,
28 a passenger in, or otherwise conveyed by a motor vehicle,
29 concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media, the
30 State Police operational dispatch unit shall also notify the
31 Department of Transportation, **【**the New Jersey Highway
32 Authority,**】** the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and the South
33 Jersey Transportation Authority of the MVP Emergency Alert.
34 Through the use of their variable message signs, the department and
35 the affected authorities shall inform the motoring public that an
36 MVP Emergency Alert is in progress and provide information
37 relating to the missing vulnerable person and how motorists may
38 report any information they have to the State Police or **【**other**】**
39 another appropriate law enforcement agency. The State Police
40 operational dispatch unit shall also ensure that employees of the
41 New Jersey Transit Corporation who are on duty at any time when
42 the MVP Emergency Alert is in effect receive notice of the MVP
43 Emergency Alert, along with all pertinent information.

44 e. The State Police shall in a timely manner update the
45 broadcast media and any other entity receiving notice of the MVP
46 Emergency Alert with new information, when appropriate,
47 concerning the missing vulnerable person.

1 f. The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the State Police.
2 (cf: P.L.2015, c.184, s.3)

3
4 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
5 next following the date of enactment, except that the Attorney
6 General may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance
7 as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

8
9
10 STATEMENT

11
12 This bill clarifies that an MVP Emergency Alert may be issued
13 no matter the manner in which a missing vulnerable person (MVP)
14 was traveling at the time the person went missing. An “MVP”
15 means a person who is believed to have a mental, intellectual, or
16 developmental disability or defect who goes missing under
17 circumstances that indicate the person may be in danger of death or
18 serious bodily injury. The MVP Emergency Alert System is a
19 Statewide system that allows for the rapid dissemination of
20 information when an MVP is missing.

21 Currently, the law only permits an MVP Emergency Alert to be
22 issued when there is information indicating the MVP was the
23 operator of, a passenger in, or otherwise conveyed by a motor
24 vehicle at the time the person went missing. This bill modifies the
25 criteria required to be met to issue an MVP Emergency Alert so that
26 any evidence of the manner in which an MVP was traveling at the
27 time the person went missing, rather than only evidence
28 demonstrating the MVP was traveling by motor vehicle, constitutes
29 sufficient information indicating an alert would assist in locating
30 the MVP. Additionally, the bill clarifies that information
31 concerning the motor vehicle an MVP may have been in or
32 operating at the time the MVP went missing is simply an example
33 of information that would be considered sufficient for assisting the
34 public in locating an MVP.