

Public Alert Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill creates the Purple Alert Notification System.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- creates the Purple Alert Notification System, to be implemented and administered by the Department of Public Safety, to assist with locating missing and endangered vulnerable adults in certain circumstances.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:**ENACTS:**

53-10-1101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53-10-1102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53-10-1103, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53-10-1101** is enacted to read:

Part 11. Purple Alert System**53-10-1101 . Definitions.**

As used in this part:

(1) "Amber Alert" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-10-1001.

(2) "Dementia" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-10-702.

(3)(a) "Dependent adult" means an individual who is:

(i) 18 years old but younger than 60 years old; and

(ii) has a physical or mental impairment that restricts the individual's ability to carry

out normal activities or to protect the individual's rights.

(b) "Dependent adult" includes an individual:

(i) who has physical or developmental disabilities; or

(ii) whose physical or mental capacity has substantially diminished because of age.

(c) "Dependent adult" does not include an individual who has dementia.

(4) "Purple Alert" means an alert issued under the Purple Alert Notification System by the department for a missing vulnerable adult in accordance with Section 53-10-1102.

(5) "Purple Alert Notification System" means the system created in Section 53-10-1102.

(6) "Vulnerable adult" means a dependent adult who has a mental or physical impairment that substantially affects the individual's ability to:

(a) provide personal protection;

(b) provide necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, or medical or other health care;

(c) obtain services necessary for health, safety, or welfare;

(d) carry out the activities of daily living;

(e) manage the individual's own resources; or

(f) comprehend the nature and consequences of remaining in a situation of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Section 2. Section **53-10-1102** is enacted to read:

53-10-1102 . Purple Alert Notification System -- Creation -- Law enforcement and department responsibilities.

(1) There is created the Purple Alert Notification System for missing vulnerable adults to be administered by the department to issue and coordinate alerts following the report of a missing vulnerable adult.

(2)(a) If a law enforcement agency receives a report of a missing adult, the law enforcement agency shall determine whether the missing adult is a vulnerable adult.

(b) If the law enforcement agency determines that the missing adult is a vulnerable adult, the law enforcement agency shall request the department to activate a Purple Alert.

(3) The department may only activate a Purple Alert after receiving a request under Subsection (2)(b) if:

(a) the department determines that the Purple Alert is a viable means by which the missing vulnerable adult is likely to be returned to safety;

(b) there is sufficient descriptive information about the missing vulnerable adult and the circumstances surrounding the vulnerable adult's disappearance to indicate that

activating the alert is likely to help locate the vulnerable adult;

(c) there is a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to the vulnerable adult or the public; and

(d) the Purple Alert meets any additional requirements established by the department for activation of a Purple Alert under Section 53-10-1103.

(4)(a) The Purple Alert Notification System shall:

(i) except as provided in Subsections (4)(a)(ii) and (b)(i), utilize the same coordination as an Amber Alert; and

(ii) when providing information to the Department of Transportation for the activation of highway signage to locate a missing vulnerable adult, indicate the specific geographical area in which the missing endangered vulnerable adult was last seen, to ensure that signs only in that area will be activated.

(b) The Purple Alert Notification System may not:

(i) activate the Emergency Alert System when issuing a Purple Alert; or

(ii) issue a Purple Alert that contains information regarding an endangered vulnerable adult's specific medical diagnosis.

Section 3. Section **53-10-1103** is enacted to read:

53-10-1103 . Rulemaking authority.

The department shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing policies, procedures, and a timeline for the:

(1) request of a Purple Alert by a law enforcement officer or agency;

(2) activation of a Purple Alert;

(3) duration of a Purple Alert; and

(4) cancellation of a Purple Alert.

Section 4. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.