



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

HB 19-1126

# FINAL FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 19-0602  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Sandridge

**Date:** June 18, 2019  
**Bill Status:** Postponed Indefinitely  
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**Bill Topic:** VETERAN AND MILITARY GREEN ALERT PROGRAM

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>minimal</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates an alert program to notify the public when a missing veterans or military service member may be a threat to him or herself. The bill minimally increases workload in the Colorado Bureau of Investigations on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a "green alert" program to notify the public when a veteran or military service member is missing and known to have a physical or mental health condition related to his or her military service, or whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person. The alert system is a coordinated effort between the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI) in the Department of Public Safety (DPS), local law enforcement agencies, and the state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters.

Following a credible and verifiable report of a missing service member to law enforcement, the CBI confirms the accuracy of the report and issues a green alert to designated media outlets. The DPS must adopt rules for the new alert program.

## Background

Under current law, the CBI operates several complementary programs that alert the public when law enforcement needs assistance locating a person or suspect. The CBI administers an alert program for missing or abducted children (Amber Alert), for missing seniors and persons with developmental disabilities (Colorado Missing Senior Citizen Alert), for persons suspected of killing or injuring a peace officer (Blue Alert), and for persons suspected of committing a hit-and-run accident involving injury or death (Medina Alert).

These alerts are distributed through public and commercial radio and television stations, LED highway billboards, text messages to mobile phones, and email. To issue alerts, the CBI uses third-party vendor software known as Alert Sense at an annual licensing cost of about \$6,000. Workload in the CBI is estimated at between two and four hours of staff time per alert.

Table 1 displays the number and type of alerts processed through the CBI for 2016-2018.

**Table 1  
CBI Alerts 2016-2018**

<b>Alert Type</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>3-Yr Total</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
AMBER	8	7	6	21	9.25%
BLUE	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Developmentally Disabled	8	7	11	26	11.45%
Endangered or Missing Seniors	12	15	21	48	21.15%
MEDINA	7	4	5	17	7.49%
SENIOR	31	55	29	115	50.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source- Colorado Bureau of Investigations

### **State Expenditures**

The bill minimally increases workload for the CBI to process green alerts in addition to the existing alerts. On average, the CBI issues 75 alerts annually. Assuming each alert requires between two and four hours of staff time, the CBI devotes between 150 and 300 hours of staff time annually, or about 0.14 FTE, in addition to annual software licensing.

It is unknown how many green alerts will be processed by the CBI; however, the total annual amount of additional alerts is expected to be low. The incremental increase in CBI alerts from this bill does not require additional appropriations; however, if the CBI process a sufficient volume of all the alerts combined, additional FTE and appropriations may be requested in the future through the annual budget process.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on February 7, 2019.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Military Affairs  
Sheriffs

Information Technology  
Municipalities

Judicial  
Public Safety