

Missing Persons; High-Risk Missing Persons; SB 118

SB 118 amends statutes related to missing persons. It creates the category of “high-risk missing person,” defined as any person who is at heightened risk of bodily harm or death, including a person who has been abducted, is missing under suspicious or known dangerous circumstances, has been missing more than 30 days, or is missing under any facts or circumstances leading the law enforcement agency to believe the person may be at risk of bodily harm or death.

Upon receiving a missing person report or any subsequent new information concerning a missing person, a law enforcement agency is required to immediately determine whether the person may be a high-risk missing person. Upon determining that a missing person is a high-risk missing person, the agency is required to immediately make this determination known to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) missing and unidentified person system and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing person system.

Upon receiving information that a person is a high-risk missing person, the director of the KBI missing and unidentified person system is required to immediately provide information regarding the missing person to every law enforcement agency in the state.

All state or local law enforcement agencies are required to accept and process, without delay, any report of a missing person, and are prohibited from refusing or otherwise failing to accept a missing person report for any reason, unless the agency knows the location of the person reported missing, has confirmed the safe status of the person reported missing, or has confirmed that another law enforcement agency has already completed a report on the missing person incident. The agency is required to enter the report as soon as practical into the KBI and NCIC missing person systems. The agency is also required to provide the person making the report with contact information and information regarding the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Center for Missing Adults.