

CS/HB 3

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to assault or battery of a law enforcement
3 officer; creating s. 784.071, F.S.; requiring the
4 Department of Law Enforcement to issue a blue alert if a
5 law enforcement officer has been killed, suffered serious
6 bodily injury, or been assaulted and the suspect has fled
7 the scene, or if a law enforcement officer is missing
8 while in the line of duty; requiring that the blue alert
9 be disseminated on the emergency alert system through
10 television, radio, and highway signs; providing that
11 emergency traffic information may take precedence over
12 blue alert information; providing an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Section 784.071, Florida Statutes, is created
17 to read:

18 784.071 Assault or battery on a law enforcement officer;
19 missing while in line of duty; blue alert.-

20 (1) At the request of an authorized person employed at a
21 law enforcement agency, the Department of Law Enforcement, in
22 cooperation with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
23 Vehicles and the Department of Transportation, shall activate
24 the emergency alert system and issue a blue alert if all of the
25 following conditions are met:

26 (a)1. A law enforcement officer has been killed, has
27 suffered serious bodily injury, or has been assaulted with a
28 deadly weapon; or

29 2. A law enforcement officer is missing while in the line
30 of duty under circumstances evidencing concern for the law
31 enforcement officer's safety;

32 (b) The suspect has fled the scene of the offense;

33 (c) The law enforcement agency investigating the offense
34 determines that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the
35 public or to other law enforcement officers;

36 (d) A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle, or
37 other means of escape, or the license plate of the suspect's
38 vehicle is available for broadcasting;

39 (e) Dissemination of available information to the public
40 may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the
41 suspect; and

42 (f) If the law enforcement officer is missing, there is
43 sufficient information available relating to the officer's last
44 known location and physical description, and the description of
45 any vehicle involved, including the license plate number or
46 other identifying information, to be broadcast to the public and
47 other law enforcement agencies, which could assist in locating
48 the missing law enforcement officer.

49 (2) (a) The blue alert shall be immediately disseminated to
50 the public through the emergency alert system by broadcasting
51 the alert on television, radio, and the dynamic message signs
52 that are located along the state's highways.

53 (b) If a traffic emergency arises requiring that
54 information pertaining to the traffic emergency be displayed on
55 a highway message sign in lieu of the blue alert information,
56 the agency responsible for displaying information on the highway

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57 | message sign is not in violation of this section.

58 | Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2011.