

SENATE FILE NO. SF0114

Missing persons-reporting requirement.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Landen and Cooper and
Representative(s) Brown, L, Clouston,
Geringer, Lawley, Lien and Washut

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to criminal procedure; requiring the
2 acceptance of reports of missing persons by law enforcement
3 as specified; providing exceptions; specifying duties for
4 law enforcement agencies and peace officers related to
5 missing persons; making conforming amendments; and
6 providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 7-2-109 is created to read:

11

12 **7-2-109. Reporting of missing persons; report**
13 **acceptance; duties and responsibilities.**

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1 (a) Each Wyoming law enforcement agency shall accept,
2 without delay, any credible report of a missing person made
3 to the law enforcement agency, unless at least one (1) of
4 the following occurs:

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6 (i) The law enforcement agency knows the
7 location of the person reported missing;

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9 (ii) The law enforcement agency confirms the
10 safe status of the person reported missing;

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12 (iii) The person reported missing is not a
13 resident of Wyoming, and the most recent verifiable
14 location of the person reported missing was not in Wyoming;

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16 (iv) The law enforcement agency confirms that
17 another law enforcement agency already has, is accepting or
18 will accept a missing person report for the person;

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20 (v) The person reporting the missing person is
21 unable to articulate reasonable knowledge of the missing
22 person or a legitimate reason for concern for the missing
23 person or the missing person's health, safety or welfare;

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2 (vi) The law enforcement agency suspects, and
3 can articulate, that the person reported as missing
4 intended to lawfully flee;

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6 (vii) The person reported missing is being
7 sought for reasons of harassment, stalking or retaliation;

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9 (viii) Other articulable extenuating
10 circumstances exist, consistent with this section, that
11 would make acceptance of a report of the missing person
12 impractical, unreasonable or unsafe for the missing person,
13 and the law enforcement agency documents the extenuating
14 circumstances.

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16 (b) The primary jurisdiction for reporting a missing
17 person shall be the law enforcement agency with
18 jurisdiction over the most recent verifiable location of
19 the missing person. If a verifiable last known location is
20 not determined, the primary jurisdiction shall be the law
21 enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the last known
22 residential address of the missing person. Nothing in this
23 subsection shall preclude or prohibit any other law

1 enforcement agency from accepting a report of a missing
2 person under this section.

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4 (c) All missing person reports meeting the criteria
5 for reporting under this section shall be entered into the
6 relevant national, regional and state databases used by the
7 law enforcement agency for the sharing of missing person
8 reports. Reports required under this subsection shall be
9 entered by the dates and times required by law but not
10 later than eight (8) hours after the receipt of a report
11 and all required information for submission.

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13 (d) If a missing person is not located within thirty
14 (30) days of being reported missing under this section, the
15 law enforcement agency that accepted the report under this
16 section shall ensure that a complete and accurate record of
17 information is compiled for the missing person, including a
18 photograph if available. The complete and accurate record
19 compiled shall be forwarded to the attorney general and the
20 division of criminal investigation for inclusion in the
21 clearinghouse database on missing persons established under
22 W.S. 9-1-624(a)(v).

23

1 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-1-624(a)(v)(B) is amended to read:

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3 **9-1-624. Division of criminal investigation; uniform**
4 **procedures and forms for collecting and disseminating**
5 **identification data; missing persons repository; annual**
6 **crime statistics report; cold case database; agencies to**
7 **cooperate.**

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9 (a) The division shall:

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11 (v) Act as a central repository of information
12 and operate a clearinghouse database on missing persons
13 from Wyoming. As a function of the central repository:

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15 (B) The division may make publicly
16 available information about ongoing missing person
17 investigations, including reports of missing persons
18 submitted to law enforcement agencies under W.S. 7-2-109,
19 to aid the efficient investigation and swift recovery of
20 missing persons or when otherwise in the public interest.

21

1 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)