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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **622**

February 9, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Policy and Oversight

March 5, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; establishing a grant program to assist local law
1.3 enforcement agencies to develop or expand lifesaver programs that locate lost or
1.4 wandering persons who are mentally impaired; authorizing a voluntary advisory
1.5 task force; providing for rulemaking; appropriating money; proposing coding
1.6 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 299C.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. **[299C.563] LIFESAVER GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Grant program.** The commissioner of public safety shall establish
1.10 a lifesaver grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies with the costs of
1.11 developing lifesaver rapid response programs designed to quickly find individuals with
1.12 medical conditions that cause wandering and result in many of these individuals becoming
1.13 lost and missing. The search and rescue program must electronically track a lost or
1.14 missing vulnerable senior citizen or an individual who is mentally impaired due to autism,
1.15 Down Syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, or other mental impairment that causes wandering.
1.16 The lifesaver program participant wears a small transmitter on the wrist to allow the local
1.17 law enforcement agency to electronically locate the participant, if necessary, using a radio
1.18 receiver. Grants may be awarded to new and existing programs. The commissioner shall
1.19 administer and promote the grant program throughout the state and serve as liaison to
1.20 lifesaver programs.

1.21 Subd. 2. **Lifesaver advisory task force.** (a) The commissioner of public safety
1.22 must convene a voluntary lifesaver advisory task force to facilitate the coordination
1.23 and implementation of lifesaver programs. When funding for the lifesaver grants
1.24 becomes available, the task force shall advise the commissioner on the development and
1.25 administration of the grant program. The commissioner shall appoint at least five persons

from various geographic areas of the state to the voluntary task force. The task force must be composed of at least one member experienced in an area of mental impairment, one member experienced in the area of law enforcement, and one member experienced in the development of a lifesaver or similar program.

(b) Notwithstanding section 15.059, the voluntary task force does not expire.

Subd. 3. **Application; eligibility.** A county law enforcement agency or two or more county, or county and city law enforcement agencies may apply for a grant to the commissioner of public safety in a form and manner established by the commissioner. The application must include:

(1) an estimate of the number of people who might qualify for lifesaver assistance;

(2) an estimate of the start-up cost for new programs or expansion costs for existing programs;

(3) a statement of the number of personnel available for tracking lost persons;

(4) a statement of available local funding sources; and

(5) other information requested by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Grant awards.** To the extent funds are available, the commissioner, in consultation with the voluntary advisory task force under subdivision 2, may award grants of up to \$4,000 to eligible applicants to develop a new lifesaver program and up to \$2,000 to eligible applicants to expand an existing program. If eligible applicants exceed the funds available, all grants must be reduced proportionately so that each eligible applicant receives the same proportion of the amount for which the applicant was eligible. Recipients developing a new lifesaver program shall be given priority over recipients expanding an existing program. Grant recipients must be located throughout the state to the extent feasible and consistent with this section.

Subd. 5. **Uses of grant award.** (a) A grant recipient may use an award only for the following:

(1) to purchase emergency response kits, which shall include, at a minimum, equipment necessary to track and triangulate searches, transmitters, receivers, or any other related equipment; and

(2) to train search personnel.

(b) A grant recipient shall manage and provide for the operating costs of the lifesaver program after its initial development or expansion based on whether the grant is to develop a new program or expand an existing program.

Subd. 6. **Lifesaver grant program account.** The lifesaver grant program account is established in the state treasury. The account shall consist of contributions from private sources and state money when appropriated. Money deposited in the account is

3.1 appropriated to the commissioner of public safety for the purposes of this section. Money
3.2 in the account that is not expended in the fiscal year in which it is appropriated does not
3.3 revert to the general fund but is available until expended.

3.4 Subd. 7. **Rulemaking authority.** The commissioner of public safety may adopt
3.5 rules under chapter 14 as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section
3.6 including at least, the annual deadline for submitting applications for a grant, procedures
3.7 for reporting search and rescue statistics using technology obtained with a grant, and
3.8 procedures for implementing or expanding a lifesaver program.

3.9 Subd. 8. **Report by local agencies.** A grant recipient shall file a report with the
3.10 commissioner itemizing the expenditures made to develop or expand its lifesaver program
3.11 and how the recipient will provide for continued operating costs of the program.

3.12 Subd. 9. **Report to legislature.** The commissioner shall report to the house
3.13 of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over public safety by
3.14 January 15, 2012, on the coordination and implementation of lifesaver programs and the
3.15 implementation, use, and administration of the grant program under this section.

3.16 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.17 \$..... in fiscal year 2010 and \$..... in fiscal year 2011 are appropriated from the
3.18 general fund to the commissioner of public safety for the purposes of the lifesaver grant
3.19 program under section 1.