

Hit and Run Driver Alert System

The Act allows the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a program to alert the public when a hit-and-run accident involving serious bodily injury or death occurs and law enforcement needs assistance in locating the suspect's vehicle.

Submitted as:

Colorado

[HB 1191](#)

Status: Signed into law on March 24, 2014.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

- 1 Section 1. [*Medina alert program – definitions – rules.*]
2 A. The General Assembly hereby finds that:
3 (a) A person who kills or inflicts a serious bodily injury upon a person during a motor
4 vehicle accident and flees the scene poses a serious and imminent threat to the safety
5 of the public;
6 (b) When a person kills or inflicts a serious bodily injury upon a person during a motor
7 vehicle accident and flees the scene, the first few hours after the act are critically
8 important to apprehending the person; and
9 (c) It is therefore necessary to create an alert system to facilitate the immediate
10 apprehension of such persons by law enforcement agencies of the state.
11 B. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
12 (a) "Designated broadcaster" means a broadcaster that is designated by rules promulgated
13 pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of this section to receive and broadcast a
14 Medina alert.
15 (b) "Hit-and-run accident" means an incident when the driver of a vehicle involved in an
16 accident fails to stop at the scene of the accident as required by [Insert citation.]
17 (c) "Medina alert" means an alert issued by the bureau pursuant to the provisions of this
18 section.
19 (d) "Notification period" means the period of time established by rules promulgated
20 pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of this section, during which time a
21 medina alert must remain effective unless it is cancelled by the bureau as described in
22 paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of this section.
23 (e) "Program" means the Medina alert program created pursuant to paragraph (a) of
24 subsection (3) of this section.
25 (f) "Serious bodily injury" has the same meaning as defined in [Insert citation.]
26 (3)
27 (a) To facilitate the immediate apprehension of persons who kill or cause serious bodily
28 injury to another person during a hit-and-run accident, there is created the Medina
29 alert program to be implemented by the bureau on and after January 1, 2015. The
30 program is a coordinated effort among the bureau, law enforcement agencies, and the
31 state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters.

- 1 (b) Using procedures established by rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (4) of this
2 section, a law enforcement agency may notify the bureau after verifying that:
3 I. A person has been killed or has suffered serious bodily injury during a hit-
4 and-run accident; and
5 II. The law enforcement agency has additional information concerning the
6 suspect or the suspect's vehicle, including but not limited to:
7 A. A complete license plate number of the suspect's vehicle;
8 B. A partial license plate number and the make, style, and color of the
9 suspect's vehicle; or
10 C. The identity of the suspect.
- 11 (c) Upon receipt of a notice from a law enforcement agency that a person has been killed
12 or has suffered serious bodily injury during a hit-and-run accident and there is
13 additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle, the bureau,
14 using procedures established by rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (4) of this
15 section, shall confirm the accuracy of the information and issue a Medina alert.
- 16 (d) The bureau shall send the Medina alert, including the notification period associated
17 with the Medina alert, to each designated broadcaster to be broadcast at designated
18 intervals as specified in rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.
- 19 (e) A Medina alert must include:
20 I. All appropriate information that the reporting law enforcement agency has
21 that may assist in the apprehension of the suspect or suspects;
22 II. A statement instructing anyone with information related to the hit-and-run
23 accident to contact his or her local law enforcement agency; and
24 III. A warning that the suspect or suspects are dangerous and that members of the
25 public should not attempt to apprehend the suspect or suspects themselves.
- 26 (f) A federal, state, or local law enforcement agency that locates or apprehends the
27 suspect or suspects shall notify the bureau as soon as practicable of such fact.
- 28 (g) A Medina alert is cancelled when the bureau notifies the designated broadcaster that
29 the suspect or suspects have been apprehended or at the end of the notification period,
30 whichever occurs first.
- 31 (4) On or before [January 1, 2015], the executive director of the department of public safety shall
32 promulgate rules for the implementation of the program. The rules shall include but need not
33 be limited to:
34 (a) Procedures for a law enforcement agency to use to notify the bureau that a person has
35 been killed or has suffered serious bodily injury during a hit-and-run accident and
36 there is additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle;
37 (b) Procedures for the bureau to follow in confirming the reporting law enforcement
38 agency's information and reporting the information to each designated broadcaster;
39 (c) The establishment of a notification period to be used for each Medina alert;
40 (d) The intervals at which designated broadcasters shall issue a Medina alert; and
41 (e) A list of designated broadcasters who have volunteered to participate in the
42 broadcasting of medina alerts.
- 43 (5) The bureau and the department of transportation shall coordinate the priority of other
44 messages for the public when determining whether to issue a Medina alert on the department
45 of transportation's variable message signs.