



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 201510, **Version:** 0

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201510

ORIGINAL

180898

ALD. COGGS, JOHNSON, AND DODD

Resolution directing the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction and passage of state and federal legislation implementing a Purple Alert system for victims of domestic violence.

This resolution directs the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction and passage of state and federal legislation to implement a Purple Alert system for victims of domestic violence.

Whereas, On December 7, 2020, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution requesting implementation of a Purple Alert system for victims of domestic violence; and

Whereas, The National Domestic Violence Hotline defines domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence, domestic abuse, or relationship abuse) as a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship; and

Whereas, The range of behaviors that encompasses domestic violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, coercion and threats, intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, minimizing, denying, and blaming, using power dynamic privilege and economic abuse, and using children as a tool to carry out any of these behaviors; and

Whereas, Domestic violence presents ongoing danger because victims often experience fear, belief that abusive behavior is normal, embarrassment or shame, cultural or religious barriers to escape, immigration status complications, lack of financial freedom, and other difficulties with ending the relationship; and

Whereas, The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates that domestic violence accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of death by 500 percent; and

Whereas, In a May 2020 article, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that Milwaukee has seen a dramatic increase in homicides this year and, as of May 2020, there were 56 victims compared to 26 victims by the same time the previous year; and

Whereas, More than 40 percent of homicides in 2020 were related to domestic or family violence; and

Whereas, The HOPE Domestic Violence Homicide Help website details a stark increase in incidents of domestic violence throughout Wisconsin, with average annual deaths at 77 and increasing; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic is one factor contributing to an increase in incidents of domestic violence due to isolation in homes with abusers, increased unemployment, and increased stress and anxiety; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the deployment of certain services to assist victims, including home visits; and

Whereas, Home visits are critical because they provide a personal, human connection to a potential victim without the fear of arrest or eviction; and

Whereas, The City of Milwaukee partners with other municipal governments, including Milwaukee County, to provide essential services to victims of domestic violence and to help lower the homicide rate related to domestic violence; and

Whereas, Law enforcement agencies across the United States employ alert systems to notify the public about timely, important information, including AMBER Alerts for missing or endangered children and Silver Alerts for missing or endangered elderly individuals; and

Whereas, The State of Wisconsin was the first state to introduce a Green Alert for missing or endangered veterans; and

Whereas, A Purple Alert system for missing or endangered victims of domestic violence, including those who have restraining orders against their abusers, would assist in notifying the public to these emergencies; and

Whereas, A Purple Alert system would decrease the amount of time one must wait to file a missing person's report for someone who has been a victim of domestic violence; and

Whereas, There are currently no states that employ a Purple Alert system for missing or endangered victims of domestic violence and the State of Wisconsin would benefit from this type of notification system; and

Whereas, Domestic violence is a community issue that has no bounds and affects all states, counties, cities, towns, and villages across the United States, making a Purple Alert suitable for federal legislation; and

Whereas, Privacy concerns are a necessary element to balance in drafting legislation implementing a Purple Alert system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division is directed to seek introduction and passage of state legislation to implement a Purple Alert system for victims of domestic violence; and, be it

Further Resolved, That File Number 180898 is amended by inserting the following item in the document attached to the file and identified as "AMENDED 2019-2020 State Legislative Detailed Proposals and Key Issues":

Health & Safety	Common Council	Implement a Purple Alert system for victims of domestic violence.
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; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division is directed to seek introduction and passage of federal legislation to implement a Purple Alert system for victims of domestic

violence; and, be it

Further Resolved, That legislation implementing a Purple Alert system shall include appropriate balancing of privacy concerns related to identifying victims of domestic violence; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to Milwaukee's representatives in the State Legislature and the City's Congressional delegation.

LRB 176491-1  
Tea B. Norfolk  
12/16/2020