

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0767	Date: February 7, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Conti	Bill Status: House Judiciary
Sen. King	Fiscal Analyst: Kerry White (303-866-3469)

SHORT TITLE: HIT AND RUN MEDINA ALERT PROGRAM

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

** This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.*

Summary of Legislation

This bill 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.

The DPS is authorized to promulgate rules and implement the program, referred to as the Medina alert, on or after January 1, 2015.

Background

Under current law, the DPS is authorized to establish programs that alert the public when law enforcement needs assistance in locating a person or suspect. For instance, there are programs to help locate a child that is believed to have been abducted (Amber alert), to locate missing seniors and persons with developmental disabilities, and to help locate a person suspected of killing or inflicting serious injury to a peace officer (Blue alert). Such alerts are distributed through public and commercial radio and television stations, LED billboards, text messages, and emails.

State Expenditures

This bill increases workload and costs for DPS and the Department of Law. DPS is directed to promulgate rules to establish the program, for which it will require assistance from the Department of Law. Rule-making is anticipated to be less than 100 hours, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations. It should be noted that the DPS does not have staffing available to prepare rules and has requested 0.5 FTE through the annual budget process to assist in rule-making for the entire department. To the extent this request is approved, no additional appropriations are required. If the request is not approved and rule-making exceeds 100 hours, the DPS may need to request additional resources for this bill through the annual budget process.

The DPS is also required to verify the accuracy of information submitted by law enforcement agencies and issue Medina alerts on an ongoing basis. The ongoing workload is anticipated to be minimal.

Local Government Impact

Workload for local law enforcement agencies may increase by a minimal amount as a result to notify DPS to issue a Medina alert. This increase is anticipated to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Municipalities

District Attorneys
Public Safety

Law
Sheriffs