

# House Bill 3926

Sponsored by Representative EDWARDS

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act directs DSP to create a way for families to exchange messages with their missing family members. The Act would not force contact among family members. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.5).

Directs the Department of State Police to create the SIGNAL program (State Initiated Guidance for Notifying and Assisting the Lost). Provides a way for a parent or former guardian of a missing person between 18 years of age and 30 years of age to exchange messages with the missing family member. Requires the department to destroy all information and materials received under the program within specified time limits.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to missing persons.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 181A.010 to**  
4 **181A.350.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "missing family member" means a person be-**  
6 **tween 18 years of age and 30 years of age who has been reported as missing and entered into**  
7 **state and federal missing persons records by a law enforcement agency under ORS 146.181.**

8 **(2) The Department of State Police shall establish the State Initiated Guidance for Noti-**  
9 **fying and Assisting the Lost program to allow for the Oregon State Police, county sheriffs**  
10 **and participating municipal police departments to exchange messages between a missing**  
11 **family member and the parent or former guardian of the missing family member. The de-**  
12 **partment shall:**

13 **(a) On any missing persons website maintained by the department, maintain a link that**  
14 **enables a parent or former guardian to submit, by means of written text or voice recording,**  
15 **a message addressed to the missing family member of the parent or former guardian.**

16 **(b) Attach a message submitted under this subsection to the corresponding missing per-**  
17 **sons report maintained by the department so that the message can be accessed by the re-**  
18 **ipient as described in this subsection.**

19 **(c) Create a personal identification number that is accessible by the Oregon State Police,**  
20 **county sheriffs and participating municipal police departments for each message submitted**  
21 **under this subsection that may be provided to and used by a missing family member to**  
22 **securely access the message from the missing family member's parent or former guardian**  
23 **by means of the telephone line maintained under paragraph (d) of this subsection.**

24 **(d) Maintain an automated telephone line that receives calls from missing family mem-**  
25 **bers and securely disseminates to missing family members messages submitted under this**  
26 **subsection, whether in the form of a voice recording or written text that has been converted**  
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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 into a synthesized voice message. A missing family member who accesses a message under  
2 this section may record a response on the telephone line, and the department shall transmit  
3 the response to the parent or former guardian of the missing family member.

4 (3) A police officer of a participating municipal police department, a member of the state  
5 police, a sheriff or a deputy sheriff who finds a missing family member shall notify the  
6 missing family member of any message for the missing family member submitted under  
7 subsection (2)(a) of this section, and shall provide the telephone number and personal iden-  
8 tification number of each message created pursuant to subsection (2)(c) and (d) of this sec-  
9 tion.

10 (4) Notwithstanding the requirements set forth in ORS 146.189 regarding the destruction  
11 of information and materials related to a missing person when the missing person is dis-  
12 covered to be living, the department shall retain messages submitted under subsection (2)(a)  
13 of this section for at least 180 days after a missing family member receives the telephone  
14 number and personal identification number necessary to access a message from the missing  
15 family member's parent or former guardian. Not later than one year after a missing family  
16 member receives the information necessary to access a message submitted under subsection  
17 (2)(a) of this section, or, if the missing family member records a response, not later than one  
18 year after the response is recorded and transmitted to the parent or former guardian of the  
19 missing family member, the department shall destroy all information and materials received  
20 under this section.

21 (5) Municipal police departments may participate in the program described in this sec-  
22 tion.

23 (6)(a) The department and each sheriff's office and participating municipal police de-  
24 partment shall adopt written policies to implement the requirements of this section, includ-  
25 ing standards for maintaining and clearing computer data of missing persons information  
26 collected under this section and stored by law enforcement agencies.

27 (b) The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.  
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