



EMERGENCY ALERT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

WHAT CAN LEGISLATORS DO

A dedicated emergency alert for people with disabilities supports faster public awareness and quicker response

It improves safety outcomes and fills a gap left by the current alert systems

WHY ACTION IS NEEDED

Louisiana does not have a dedicated alert for people with disabilities who go missing or are in danger. This new alert could help people with:

- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Complex medical needs
- Serious mental health or emotional needs

KNOW THE FACTS

- 25 - 50% of people with ASD or I/DD wander or go missing at some point
- They may not understand when a situation is unsafe, such as bad weather, traffic, water or unsafe places
- Current alerts don't cover these situations- Amber Alerts are for abducted children and Silver Alerts are for older adults
- It takes minutes to get confused, injured or worse

Bills have been filed for the 2026 legislative session to address this issue. They could be strengthened to better protect people with disabilities of all ages.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS

- Keeps people with disabilities safe
- Helps first responders and the public act quickly and follow clear steps
- Gives families and caregivers peace of mind
- Raises community awareness about disability inclusion and safety
- Saves lives by helping people return home faster

