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AN ACT

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS; CREATING THE "MISSING IN
NEW MEXICO EVENT"; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Missing Persons
Information and Reporting Act is enacted to read:

"MISSING IN NEW MEXICO EVENT.--Each year, the department
of public safety, in collaboration with the clearinghouse,
shall host a "missing in New Mexico event" in support of all
New Mexicans who are searching for missing relatives. The
missing in New Mexico event is designated to:

A. provide an opportunity for federal, state,
local and tribal governments to come together in one location
and virtually to assist families to file missing persons
reports, update missing persons reports, submit DNA records
or meet with an investigator;

B. provide a network for New Mexicans with missing
relatives to heal, access support services and access media
outlets to distribute information about missing relatives to
the general public; and

C. encourage the department of public safety,
local law enforcement agencies, the office of the attorney
general, the office of the state medical investigator, the
Indian affairs department, the department of health and the

1 behavioral health services and income support divisions of
2 the human services department to come together to provide
3 support and services for New Mexican families with missing
4 relatives."

5 SECTION 2. Section 29-15-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
6 Chapter 146, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

7 "29-15-3. MISSING PERSONS INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE--
8 FUNCTION.--

9 A. The "missing persons information clearinghouse"
10 is established in the department of public safety. The
11 department of public safety shall provide for the
12 administration of the clearinghouse. The department of
13 public safety may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of
14 the Missing Persons Information and Reporting Act in the
15 manner prescribed in Subsection E of Section 9-1-5 NMSA 1978.

16 B. The clearinghouse is a central repository of
17 information on missing persons and shall be used by all law
18 enforcement agencies, including tribal agencies, in this
19 state.

20 C. The clearinghouse shall:

21 (1) establish a system of intrastate
22 communication of information relating to missing persons;

23 (2) provide a centralized file for the
24 exchange of information on missing persons and unidentified
25 human remains within the state;

1 (3) communicate with the national crime
2 information center for the exchange of information on missing
3 persons suspected of interstate travel;

4 (4) collect, process, maintain and
5 disseminate accurate and complete information on missing
6 persons;

7 (5) provide a statewide toll-free telephone
8 line for the reporting of missing persons and for receiving
9 information on missing persons;

10 (6) disseminate to custodians, law
11 enforcement agencies, the public education department, the
12 children, youth and families department and the general
13 public information that explains how to prevent child
14 abduction and what to do if a child becomes missing;

15 (7) compile statistics relating to the
16 incidence of missing persons within the state;

17 (8) provide training and technical
18 assistance to law enforcement agencies and social services
19 agencies pertaining to missing persons;

20 (9) establish a media protocol for
21 disseminating information pertaining to missing persons; and

22 (10) host the annual missing in New Mexico
23 event.

24 D. The clearinghouse shall print and distribute
25 posters, flyers and other forms of information containing

1 descriptions of missing persons.

2 E. The department of public safety may accept
3 public or private grants, gifts and donations to assist the
4 department in carrying out the provisions of the Missing
5 Persons Information and Reporting Act."

6 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
7 peace, health and safety that this act take effect
8 immediately. _____

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