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SB 673 (Ebony Alert; missing Black youth)

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 673 into law, creating the Ebony Alert notification system, effective January 1st, 2024. This bill would add section 8594.14 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

This bill authorizes a law enforcement agency to request the Department of the California Highway Patrol to activate an “Ebony Alert,” with respect to Black youth, including young women and girls, who are reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, at risk, developmentally disabled, or cognitively impaired, or who have been abducted.

This bill would authorize a law enforcement agency to request that an Ebony Alert be activated if that agency determines that an Ebony Alert would be an effective tool in the investigation of missing Black youth, including a young woman or girl. The law enforcement agency may consider the following factors to make that determination:

Factors to consider when issuing an Ebony Alert

- The missing person is between 12 to 25 years of age, inclusive.
- The missing person suffers from a mental or physical disability.
- The person is missing under circumstances that indicate their physical safety may be endangered or may be subject to trafficking.
- The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, or environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized available local resources.

- There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.