

Among the hundreds of new California laws that went into effect yesterday is one involving the state's seniors called the "Silver Alert."

Modeled after the "Amber Alert" for missing children, the Silver Alert could be activated by a police agency for anyone 65 or older who's missing and may be in danger because of medical needs or a mental condition such as Alzheimer's or dementia.

Formerly, families had to wait 24 hours to file a missing-person's report, but the new law puts police agencies and the public into immediate action looking for seniors who are lost.