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**Purple Alert: Bill That Champions Disability Rights And Could Save Lives,
Signed Into Law**

Tallahassee, FL - On Wednesday, **Governor DeSantis** signed **[SB 184, Purple Alert](#)**, into law. This bipartisan bill establishes the first ever alert of its type, activated when an individual with a mental, cognitive, intellectual or developmental disability goes missing and whose disappearance is a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to themselves.

“We worked hard for three years to tailor this bill in an effort to ensure its passage. I worked closely with many stakeholders in this process and could not be happier to see it cross the finish line and become law. We fought hard to honor the life of Joshua Marshall, a young man who wandered and tragically drowned in a retention pond. Josh may have been saved had the Purple Alert existed at that time. This is a giant step forward in improving public safety and disability rights in Florida, and will save lives,” said **Senator Berman (D- Boynton Beach)**.

“After hearing the story of Joshua Marshall, getting this legislation passed became one of my priorities in the Florida House,” said **Representative Casello (D- Boynton Beach)**. “With the Governor’s signature, the Purple Alert will be established in Florida saving potentially hundreds of lives in the process. Those with intellectual disabilities are some of the most vulnerable in our community and this is a step in the right direction to keep them safe.”

The Purple Alert will operate much like an Amber or Silver Alert, requiring the FDLE to establish & implement this alert and to work with FDOT, DHSMV, the Department of Lottery and local law enforcement to broadcast information to the public and media about these missing adults. This can be through lottery terminals, activation of message signs on state highways and through cellular alerts to subscribers. These alerts can be targeted to geographic areas within a jurisdiction so as to focus on the area where the missing adult is believed to be.

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