



Delaware House of Representatives House Majority Caucus

**For Immediate Release:
June 14, 2010**

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BLUE ALERT BILL CLEARS HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY

Schooley bill would help in capture of those who hurt or kill law enforcement officers

DOVER – The House unanimously passed legislation on Thursday creating an alert system to aid in the capture of offenders who kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer.

Sponsored by Rep. Teresa L. “Terry” Schooley, D-Newark, House Bill 448 would create a “Blue Alert” program, which is modeled after similar programs in other states and after Delaware’s “Gold Alert” program, which is used to identify certain missing persons.

“Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every time they put on the uniform,” Rep. Schooley said. “They put themselves in harm’s way to protect us and keep us safe. When someone seriously hurts or kills an officer, we must do everything to get that person off the streets and bring them to justice as quickly as possible.”

Under HB 448, the Blue Alert program would be activated when a suspect in the death or serious injury of a law enforcement officer has not been caught and might be a serious threat to the public. The investigating law enforcement agency would send an alert to media outlets and send descriptive information to the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and notify the Delaware Information Analysis Center (DIAC).

The alert would terminate when the suspect is located or the incident is otherwise resolved.

HB 448 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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