

# PREVENTING WANDERING

## AB 2541: Guidelines for Addressing Wandering



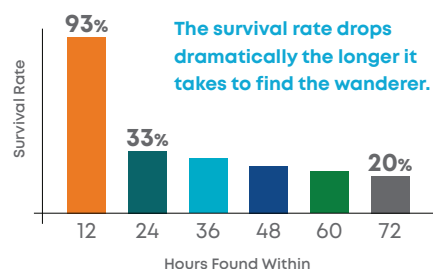
Introduced by Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains (AD-35), AB 2541 directs the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to develop guidelines for law enforcement addressing wandering associated with Alzheimer's disease, autism, and dementia. POST will bring subject matter experts representing law enforcement agencies, the Department of Justice, Missing and Unidentified Persons Section, organizations with expertise in autism and wandering, organizations with expertise in Alzheimer's disease and dementia and wandering, emergency management services agencies, regional centers, and public transit agencies in the development of the guidelines.

### BACKGROUND

Over 60% of those living with Alzheimer's will wander at some point and an estimated 49% of children with autism will engage in wandering behavior. Finding people quickly is key to ensuring their safe return. An estimated 50% of those with Alzheimer's not found within 24 hours will suffer serious injury or death. Over 70% of counties in California do not have a rapid response program and/or registry to aid in finding a missing person with a cognitive impairment.

### RISK FOR WANDERING... THE NUMBERS...

- In 2022, 313 children were reported lost and 59,129 were reported as runaways<sup>1</sup>
- In 2022, 1,627 dependent adults were reported missing to the DOJ<sup>2</sup>



A person with Alzheimer's who wanders can become injured or die from exposure or other safety risks.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/ch-ann-reports-2022.pdf> <sup>2</sup> <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/adult-ann-reports-2022.pdf>