

The Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act

Introduced by Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) and Senator Dean Heller (NV)

A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and other purposes.

Section 1:

A. Expedited Access to Certain Federal Lands

The Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite access to Federal lands for eligible organizations and individuals to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.

B. Release of the Federal government from liability

The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal lands under this section if the organization or individual: 1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions listed in paragraphs 1-4 in subsection A and 2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal government from all liability related to the access granted.

C. Approval and Denial of Requests

1 - The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization or individual of the approval or denial of a request to carry out a Good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission not more than 48 hours after the request is made.

2 – Denials: If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or individual, the Secretary shall notify the organization or individual of: a) the reason for denial and b) any actions the organization or individual can take to meet the requirements for approval.

D. Partnerships

The Secretary shall develop search and recovery focused partnerships with search and recovery organizations to: 1) coordinate Good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary and 2) expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

E. Report

The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress no later than 180 days after the date of enactment describing:

1) Plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (d) (1) and 2) efforts being taken to expedite and accelerate Good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands.