

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1656

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION SYSTEM.

Basic Change :

Sponsor: Rep. Gonzalez

Current law authorizes the Arkansas State Police (ASP) in conjunction with other entities to create the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System. HB1656 names the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) as one of the agencies to work with ASP to implement an emergency contact information system to assist law enforcement in notification of next of kin or other designated contact in times of emergency. The bill changes the definition of "emergency" to mean a circumstance in which a person sustains injuries that renders him or her unable to independently communicate with emergency contacts or exhibits a symptom that renders him or her unable to independently communicate with emergency contacts, including without limitation memory loss, loss of ability to understand or express speech, disorientation, or confusion and agitation. The bill also states participation is voluntary and the information may only be used by law enforcement for emergency notification and shall not be used in a criminal investigation or for any other purpose.

Revenue Impact :

None.

Taxpayer Impact :

Taxpayers may voluntarily enter emergency contact information and the information will be used only for notification purposes in case of an emergency.

Resources Required :

Required programming cost is estimated to be \$ 27,000.00.

Time Required :

The effective date of this bill is on and after November 13, 2017, therefore, no additional time is required.

Procedural Changes :

None.

Other Comments :

None.

Legal Analysis :

Under current law, the Emergency Contact Information System was established to assist law enforcement in notification of next of kin in times of emergency. This system is administered by the Arkansas State Police (ASP). The bill makes a number of amendments, one of which adds DFA as a co-administrator of the system. ASP and DFA may promulgate rules if needed.