

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-005

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE  
4 CONDUCT A STUDY CONCERNING EMERGENCY ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS.  
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6 WHEREAS, Arkansas is ranked as one (1) of the lowest states for  
7 emergency alert representation through the Federal Emergency Management  
8 Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System; and  
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10 WHEREAS, out of seventy-five (75) Arkansas counties and numerous state  
11 agencies, only sixteen (16) have independent emergency alerting capabilities;  
12 and  
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14 WHEREAS, out of the sixteen (16) counties and agencies with independent  
15 emergency alerting capabilities, less than one-half (1/2) have used the  
16 service since 2018; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Arkansas is not effectively using the missing person alert  
19 program, including the AMBER Alert program, as current messaging standards  
20 and notifications are not in line with national best practices; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Child Abduction Response Teams in Arkansas do not have the  
23 participation of many local agencies and need multidisciplinary cooperation  
24 to be effective,  
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26 NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE OF THE  
28 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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30 THAT the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce conduct an interim  
31 study concerning:

32 (1) How each county in the state can meet the requirements to  
33 have access and emergency alert capabilities through the Federal Emergency  
34 Management Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to use the  
35 available technology to disseminate information to the public or send a  
36 warning;

1           (2) Whether other missing person alert types should be used,  
2 such as the Blue Alert, Silver Alert, and Ashanti Alert, in addition to the  
3 AMBER Alert, and how the state could develop an effective Missing Person  
4 Alert Plan to set out each alert, the criteria for each alert, the resources  
5 available for each alert, and the process for using each alert;

6           (3) Access to resources provided by the United States Government  
7 and other sources to educate and support public safety officials on how to  
8 create effective and actionable alert messages to the public to get desired  
9 actions; and

10           (4) The creation of the Arkansas Endangered Persons Task Force,  
11 a multidisciplinary committee that would provide guidance and support to  
12 develop an effective Missing Person Alert Plan, to support statewide Child  
13 Abduction Response Teams and include representatives from the Governor's  
14 office, Attorney General's office, the General Assembly, the Arkansas  
15 Sheriffs' Association, the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the  
16 Arkansas Municipal League, the Division of Arkansas State Police, and a  
17 victim advocate.

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19 Respectfully submitted,

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23 Representative Robin Lundstrum  
24 District 18

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27 Prepared by: TSA/TSA  
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