

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-005

REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE
CONDUCT A STUDY CONCERNING EMERGENCY ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Arkansas is ranked as one (1) of the lowest states for
emergency alert representation through the Federal Emergency Management
Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System; and

WHEREAS, out of seventy-five (75) Arkansas counties and numerous state
agencies, only sixteen (16) have independent emergency alerting capabilities;
and

WHEREAS, out of the sixteen (16) counties and agencies with independent
emergency alerting capabilities, less than one-half (1/2) have used the
service since 2018; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas is not effectively using the missing person alert
program, including the AMBER Alert program, as current messaging standards
and notifications are not in line with national best practices; and

WHEREAS, Child Abduction Response Teams in Arkansas do not have the
participation of many local agencies and need multidisciplinary cooperation
to be effective,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE OF THE
NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce conduct an interim
study concerning:

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

18
19 Respectfully submitted,

20
21
22
23 Representative Robin Lundstrum
24 District 18

25
26
27 Prepared by: TSA/TSA
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36