

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1656

5 By: Representative Gonzales  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS  
9 EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER  
10 PURPOSES.  
11  
12

## Subtitle

13 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS  
14 EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION SYSTEM.  
15  
16  
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1301 is amended to read as follows:  
21 27-16-1301. Title.

22 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "~~Arkansas~~  
23 Emergency Contact Information System Act".  
24

25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1302 is amended to read as follows:  
26 27-16-1302. Purpose.

27 The purpose of this subchapter is to create ~~the Arkansas Emergency~~  
28 ~~Contact Information System~~ an emergency contact information system to assist  
29 law enforcement in notification of next of kin or other designated emergency  
30 contact of an eligible participant in times of emergency.  
31

32 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1303 and § 27-16-1304 are amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 27-16-1303. System development.

35 The Department of Arkansas State Police in conjunction with other  
36 entities, including without limitation the Department of Finance and



1 ~~Administration~~ may establish ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information~~  
 2 ~~System~~ an emergency contact information system.

3  
 4 27-16-1304. Definitions.

5 As used in this subchapter "emergency":

6 (1) Means ~~an unforeseen~~ a circumstance in which:

7 (A) ~~A victim person:~~

8 (i) sustains ~~Sustains~~ injuries that render him or  
 9 her unable to independently communicate with emergency contacts; or

10 (ii) Exhibits a symptom that renders him or her  
 11 unable to independently communicate with emergency contacts, including  
 12 without limitation:

13 (a) Memory loss;

14 (b) Loss of ability to understand or express  
 15 speech;

16 (c) Disorientation; or

17 (d) Confusion and agitation;

18 (B) Contact information for next of kin or other  
 19 designated emergency contact is not otherwise available; and

20 (C) Immediate communication with a next of kin or other  
 21 designated emergency contact is necessary to support the provision of  
 22 notification by law enforcement; and

23 (2) Includes without limitation:

24 (A) A motor vehicle accident;

25 (B) An accident involving another mode of transportation;

26 (C) A natural disaster; or

27 (D) Being a victim of a criminal act.

28  
 29 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1305(a), concerning the use of  
 30 information, is amended to read as follows:

31 (a) Information in ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~  
 32 an emergency contact information system shall be accessible only to law  
 33 enforcement for emergency notification purposes or ~~pursuant to~~ by a court  
 34 order and shall not be used in a criminal investigation or for any other  
 35 purpose.

1 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1306 is amended to read as follows:  
 2 27-16-1306. Authority to promulgate rules.

3 The Department of Arkansas State Police, the Department of Finance and  
 4 Administration, and any other entity that establishes an emergency contact  
 5 information system ~~is authorized to~~ may promulgate rules to implement and  
 6 administer the purpose and intent of this subchapter.

7  
 8 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1307 is repealed.

9 ~~27-16-1307. Implementation date.~~

10 ~~Implementation of the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~  
 11 ~~may begin after funding has been obtained.~~

12  
 13 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1308(a), concerning voluntary  
 14 participation, is amended to read as follows:

15 (a) Participation in ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information~~  
 16 ~~System~~ an emergency contact information system is voluntary.

17  
 18 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1309(a), concerning the  
 19 responsibility for accuracy of information, is amended to read as follows:

20 (a) Each participant has the exclusive responsibility for:

21 (1) Initiating, entering, modifying, and deleting emergency  
 22 contact records in ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~ an  
 23 emergency contact information system; and

24 (2) The accuracy and completeness of all information submitted.

25  
 26 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after  
 27 November 13, 2017.