

By: Hancock, West

S.B. No. 2429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to reporting procedures and training programs for law  
3 enforcement agencies regarding missing children and missing  
4 persons.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Article 2.13(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (c) It is the duty of every officer to take possession of a  
9 child under Article 63.00905(g) [~~63.009(g)~~].

10 SECTION 2. The heading to Article 63.009, Code of Criminal  
11 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

12 Art. 63.009. LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS GENERALLY.

13 SECTION 3. Articles 63.009(a), (d), and (f), Code of  
14 Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

15 (a) A law enforcement agency, on receiving a report of a  
16 [~~missing child or~~] missing person, shall:

17 (1) [~~if the subject of the report is a child and the~~  
18 ~~child is at a high risk of harm or is otherwise in danger or~~] if the  
19 subject of the report is a person who is known by the agency to have  
20 or is reported to have chronic dementia, including Alzheimer's  
21 dementia, whether caused by illness, brain defect, or brain injury,  
22 immediately start an investigation in order to determine the  
23 present location of the [~~child or~~] person;

24 (2) if the subject of the report is a [~~child or~~] person

1 other than a [~~child or~~] person described by Subdivision (1), start  
2 an investigation with due diligence in order to determine the  
3 present location of the [~~child or~~] person;

4 (3) immediately, but not later than two hours after  
5 receiving the report, enter the name of the [~~child or~~] person into  
6 the clearinghouse and the national crime information center missing  
7 person file if the [~~child or~~] person meets the center's criteria,  
8 and report that name to the Alzheimer's Association Safe Return  
9 emergency response center if applicable, with all available  
10 identifying features such as dental records, fingerprints, other  
11 physical characteristics, and a description of the clothing worn  
12 when last seen, and all available information describing any person  
13 reasonably believed to have taken or retained the [~~missing child~~  
14 ~~or~~] missing person;

15 (4) not later than the 60th day after the date the  
16 agency receives the report, enter the name of the [~~child or~~] person  
17 into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, with all  
18 available identifying features such as dental records,  
19 fingerprints, other physical characteristics, and a description of  
20 the clothing worn when last seen, and all available information  
21 describing any person reasonably believed to have taken or retained  
22 the [~~missing child or~~] missing person; and

23 (5) inform the person who filed the report of the  
24 [~~missing child or~~] missing person that the information will be:

25 (A) entered into the clearinghouse, the national  
26 crime information center missing person file, and the National  
27 Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and

1 (B) reported to the Alzheimer's Association Safe  
2 Return emergency response center if applicable.

3 (d) If a local law enforcement agency investigating a report  
4 of a [~~missing child or~~] missing person obtains a warrant for the  
5 arrest of a person for taking or retaining the [~~missing child or~~]  
6 missing person, the local law enforcement agency shall immediately  
7 enter the name and other descriptive information of the person into  
8 the national crime information center wanted person file if the  
9 person meets the center's criteria. The local law enforcement  
10 agency shall also enter all available identifying features,  
11 including dental records, fingerprints, and other physical  
12 characteristics of the [~~missing child or~~] missing person. The  
13 information shall be cross-referenced with the information in the  
14 national crime information center missing person file.

15 (f) Immediately after the return of a [~~missing child or~~]  
16 missing person or the identification of an unidentified body, the  
17 local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction of the  
18 investigation shall:

19 (1) clear the entry in the national crime information  
20 center database; and

21 (2) notify the National Missing and Unidentified  
22 Persons System.

23 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 63, Code of Criminal  
24 Procedure, is amended by adding Article 63.00905 to read as  
25 follows:

26 Art. 63.00905. LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORT OF  
27 MISSING CHILD. (a) Regardless of the jurisdiction in which the

1 child went missing, a law enforcement agency, on receiving a report  
2 of a missing child, shall:

3 (1) immediately start an investigation in order to  
4 determine the present location of the child;

5 (2) immediately, but not later than two hours after  
6 receiving the report, enter the name of the child into the  
7 clearinghouse and the national crime information center missing  
8 person file if the child meets the center's criteria, with all  
9 available identifying features such as dental records,  
10 fingerprints, other physical characteristics, and a description of  
11 the clothing worn when last seen, and all available information  
12 describing any person reasonably believed to have taken or retained  
13 the missing child;

14 (3) immediately, but not later than two hours after  
15 the agency receives the report, enter the applicable information  
16 into the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System or a  
17 successor system of telecommunication used by law enforcement  
18 agencies and operated by the Department of Public Safety;

19 (4) not later than the 30th day after the date the  
20 agency receives the report, enter the name of the child into the  
21 National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, with all  
22 available identifying features such as dental records,  
23 fingerprints, other physical characteristics, and a description of  
24 the clothing worn when last seen, and all available information  
25 describing any person reasonably believed to have taken or retained  
26 the missing child; and

27 (5) inform the person who filed the report of the

1 missing child that the information will be entered into the  
2 clearinghouse, the national crime information center missing  
3 person file, and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons  
4 System.

5 (b) A local law enforcement agency, on receiving a report of  
6 a child missing under the circumstances described by Article  
7 63.001(3)(D) for a period of not less than 48 hours, shall  
8 immediately make a reasonable effort to locate the child and  
9 determine the well-being of the child. On determining the location  
10 of the child, if the agency has reason to believe that the child is a  
11 victim of abuse or neglect as defined by Section 261.001, Family  
12 Code, the agency:

13 (1) shall notify the Department of Family and  
14 Protective Services; and

15 (2) may take possession of the child under Subchapter  
16 B, Chapter 262, Family Code.

17 (c) The Department of Family and Protective Services, on  
18 receiving notice under Subsection (b), may initiate an  
19 investigation into the allegation of abuse or neglect under Section  
20 261.301, Family Code, and take possession of the child under  
21 Chapter 262, Family Code.

22 (d) Information not immediately available when the original  
23 entry is made shall be entered into the clearinghouse, the national  
24 crime information center file, and the National Missing and  
25 Unidentified Persons System as a supplement to the original entry  
26 as soon as possible.

27 (e) If a local law enforcement agency investigating a report

1 of a missing child obtains a warrant for the arrest of a person for  
2 taking or retaining the missing child, the local law enforcement  
3 agency shall immediately enter the name and other descriptive  
4 information of the person into the national crime information  
5 center wanted person file if the person meets the center's  
6 criteria. The local law enforcement agency shall also enter all  
7 available identifying features, including dental records,  
8 fingerprints, and other physical characteristics of the missing  
9 child. The information shall be cross-referenced with the  
10 information in the national crime information center missing person  
11 file.

12 (f) Immediately after the return of a missing child, the  
13 local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction of the  
14 investigation shall:

15 (1) clear the entry in the national crime information  
16 center database; and

17 (2) notify the National Missing and Unidentified  
18 Persons System.

19 (g) On determining the location of a child, other than a  
20 child who is subject to the continuing jurisdiction of a district  
21 court, an officer shall take possession of the child and shall  
22 deliver or arrange for the delivery of the child to a person  
23 entitled to possession of the child. If the person entitled to  
24 possession of the child is not immediately available, the law  
25 enforcement officer shall deliver the child to the Department of  
26 Family and Protective Services.

27 SECTION 5. Article [63.0091](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 Art. 63.0091. LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS REGARDING  
3 REPORTS OF CERTAIN MISSING CHILDREN. (a) The public safety  
4 director of the Department of Public Safety shall adopt rules  
5 regarding the procedures for a local law enforcement agency on  
6 receiving a report of a missing child who:

7 (1) had been reported missing on four or more  
8 occasions in the 24-month period preceding the date of the current  
9 report;

10 (2) is in foster care or in the conservatorship of the  
11 Department of Family and Protective Services and had been reported  
12 missing on two or more occasions in the 24-month period preceding  
13 the date of the current report; or

14 (3) is ~~[under 14 years of age and otherwise determined~~  
15 ~~by the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Public~~  
16 ~~Safety to be]~~ at a high risk of human trafficking, sexual assault,  
17 exploitation, abuse, or neglectful supervision for any reason the  
18 agency considers to be high risk, including because the missing  
19 child:

20 (A) disappeared while in a dangerous  
21 environment;

22 (B) has mental or behavioral health needs;

23 (C) previously exhibited signs of mental  
24 illness;

25 (D) has an intellectual or developmental  
26 disability; or

27 (E) is known to have been last seen or in

1 communication with an adult unknown to the child's family or legal  
2 guardian.

3 (b) The rules adopted under this article must require that:

4 (1) in entering information regarding the report into  
5 the national crime information center missing person file as  
6 required by Article 63.00905(a)(2) [~~63.009(a)(3)~~] for a missing  
7 child described by Subsection (a), the local law enforcement agency  
8 shall indicate, in the manner specified in the rules, that the child  
9 is at a high risk of harm and include relevant information  
10 regarding:

11 (A) any prior occasions on which the child was  
12 reported missing; and

13 (B) the circumstances considered when  
14 designating the child as high risk; and

15 (2) the local law enforcement agency that receives a  
16 report of a missing child described by Subsection (a)(3) shall:

17 (A) reasonably escalate the response; and

18 (B) immediately, but not later than two hours  
19 after receiving the report, notify all law enforcement agencies  
20 within 100 miles, including agencies from other states, of the  
21 circumstances and high risk designation of the missing child.

22 (c) If, at the time the initial entry into the national  
23 crime information center missing person file is made, the local law  
24 enforcement agency has not determined that the requirements of this  
25 article apply to the report of the missing child, the information  
26 required by Subsection (b)(1) [~~(b)~~] must be added to the entry  
27 promptly after the agency investigating the report or the



1 Department of Public Safety determines that the missing child is  
2 described by Subsection (a).

3 SECTION 6. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended  
4 by adding Subsection (q) to read as follows:

5 (q) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the  
6 commission shall establish a basic education and training program  
7 on missing children and missing persons, including instruction on  
8 the associated reporting requirements under Chapter 63, Code of  
9 Criminal Procedure. An officer shall complete the program not  
10 later than the second anniversary of the date the officer is  
11 licensed under this chapter unless the officer completes the  
12 program as part of the officer's basic training course.

13 SECTION 7. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
14 amended by adding Section 1701.2581 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 1701.2581. VOLUNTARY ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
16 PROGRAM ON MISSING CHILDREN AND MISSING PERSONS. The commission  
17 shall make available to each officer a voluntary advanced education  
18 and training program on missing children and missing persons. The  
19 program must include instruction on the associated reporting  
20 requirements under Chapter 63, Code of Criminal Procedure.

21 SECTION 8. The following provisions of the Code of Criminal  
22 Procedure are repealed:

- 23 (1) Articles 63.009(a-1), (a-2), and (g); and  
24 (2) Article 63.0092.

25 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter  
26 63, Code of Criminal Procedure, apply only to the report of a  
27 missing child or missing person that is made to a law enforcement

1 agency on or after the effective date of this Act. The report of a  
2 missing child or missing person that is made to a law enforcement  
3 agency before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law  
4 in effect when the report was made, and the former law is continued  
5 in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 10. Section 1701.253(q), Occupations Code, as added  
7 by this Act, applies only to a person who submits an application for  
8 a peace officer license under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, on or  
9 after January 1, 2025. A person who submits an application for a  
10 peace officer license under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, before  
11 January 1, 2025, is governed by the law in effect immediately before  
12 the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in  
13 effect for that purpose.

14 SECTION 11. Not later than December 1, 2024, the Texas  
15 Commission on Law Enforcement shall:

16 (1) establish the training programs required by  
17 Sections 1701.253(q) and 1701.2581, Occupations Code, as added by  
18 this Act; and

19 (2) adopt the rules necessary to implement Sections  
20 1701.253(q) and 1701.2581, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

21 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.