

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1401
By: Goolsby
Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Texas Department of Public Safety administers the Texas Amber Alert Network to alert the public when a child is believed to have been abducted and is in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death, and when an investigation has eliminated alternative explanations for the missing child, and when there is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in the case.

Once DPS notifies the Commission of an Amber alert activation, this bill requires the Texas Lottery Commission to disseminate via its central computer terminal system to the more than 16,000 retail locations statewide the information. This information is takes the form of starlight LED messages which are visible to members of the public who are present at a retail location, as well as printed news messages to the retail clerks who operate the online lottery terminals.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 466, Government Code, by adding Section 466.026 to require the Texas Lottery Commission, on receipt of notice by the Department of Public Safety that the Statewide Texas Amber Alert Network has been activated, shall disseminate Amber Alert information at its retail locations through the lottery operator system.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003