By:  Stucky, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Parker) H.B. No. 3556

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2023; May 11, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 19, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Flores          X

Bettencourt     X

Hinojosa        X

Huffman         X

King            X

Miles           X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a local area activation of the alert system for certain missing children.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter L, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.3555 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.3555.  LOCAL AREA ACTIVATION FOR CERTAIN MISSING CHILDREN. On the request of a local law enforcement agency that knows a child is missing but has not verified the criteria described by Section 411.355(a), and if the chief law enforcement officer of the local law enforcement agency believes that activation of the alert system is warranted, the department shall:

(1)  activate the alert system only in the following areas:

(A)  within a 100-mile radius of the location from which the child is believed to have gone missing or the location in which the child was last seen, as applicable; and

(B)  in all counties adjacent to the county from which the child is believed to have gone missing or the county in which the child was last seen, as applicable; and

(2)  notify appropriate participants in the alert system, as established by rule.

SECTION 2.  Section 411.356, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 411.356.  LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.  Before requesting activation of the alert system, a local law enforcement agency must verify that the criteria described by Section 411.355(a) or (b) or 411.3555, as applicable, have been satisfied.  On verification of the applicable criteria, the local law enforcement agency shall immediately contact the department to request activation and shall supply the necessary information on the forms prescribed by the director.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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