

By: Stucky, Harless, Meyer, Garcia

H.B. No. 3556

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:

1           Sec. 411.356. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. Before  
2 requesting activation of the alert system, a local law enforcement  
3 agency must verify that the criteria described by Section  
4 [411.355](#)(a) or (b) or 411.3555, as applicable, have been  
5 satisfied. On verification of the applicable criteria, the local  
6 law enforcement agency shall immediately contact the department to  
7 request activation and shall supply the necessary information on  
8 the forms prescribed by the director.

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