

By: Morales of Harris

H.B. No. 440

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to requiring certain alert messages to be in English and
3 Spanish.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.218(b), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) Each institution of higher education and private or
8 independent institution of higher education shall establish an
9 emergency alert system for the institution's students and staff,
10 including faculty. The emergency alert system must use e-mail or
11 telephone notifications in addition to any other alert method the
12 institution considers appropriate to provide timely notification
13 of emergencies affecting the institution or its students and staff.
14 Information provided through the emergency alert system must be in
15 English and Spanish.

16 SECTION 2. Section 411.306, Government Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 411.306. CONTENT OF POWER OUTAGE ALERT. The power
19 outage alert must be in English and Spanish and include a statement
20 that electricity customers may experience a power outage.

21 SECTION 3. Section 411.352, Government Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 411.352. STATEWIDE AMERICA'S MISSING: BROADCAST
24 EMERGENCY RESPONSE (AMBER) ALERT SYSTEM FOR ABDUCTED CHILDREN AND

1 MISSING PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES. With the
2 cooperation of the Texas Department of Transportation, the office
3 of the governor, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies in
4 this state, the department shall develop and implement a statewide
5 alert system to be activated on behalf of an abducted child or a
6 missing person with an intellectual disability. The department
7 shall require that the information provided through the alert
8 system, including information sent through text messages or
9 displayed on dynamic message signs, be in English and Spanish.

10 SECTION 4. Section 411.372, Government Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 Sec. 411.372. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALERT
13 SYSTEM. With the cooperation of the Texas Department of
14 Transportation, the office of the governor, and other appropriate
15 law enforcement agencies in this state, the department shall
16 develop and implement an alert system to be activated on report of
17 an active shooter. The department shall require that the
18 information provided through the alert system, including
19 information sent through text messages or displayed on dynamic
20 message signs, be in English and Spanish.

21 SECTION 5. Section 411.388, Government Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 411.388. CONTENT OF SILVER ALERT. The alert must be
24 in English and Spanish and include:

25 (1) all appropriate information that is provided by
26 the local law enforcement agency and that may lead to the safe
27 recovery of the missing senior citizen or person with Alzheimer's

1 disease; and

2 (2) a statement instructing any person with
3 information related to the missing senior citizen or person with
4 Alzheimer's disease to contact a local law enforcement agency.

5 SECTION 6. Section 411.448, Government Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 411.448. CONTENT OF ALERT. The alert must be in
8 English and Spanish and include:

9 (1) all appropriate information that is provided by
10 the law enforcement agency under Section 411.446 and that may lead
11 to the apprehension of the missing suspect; and

12 (2) a statement instructing any person with
13 information related to the missing suspect to contact a law
14 enforcement agency.

15 SECTION 7. Section 411.468, Government Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 411.468. CONTENT OF ALERT. The alert must be in
18 English and Spanish and include:

19 (1) all appropriate information that may lead to the
20 safe recovery of the missing adult, as determined by the
21 department; and

22 (2) a statement instructing any person with
23 information related to the missing adult to contact a local or state
24 law enforcement agency.

25 SECTION 8. As soon as practicable after the effective date
26 of this Act, the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas,
27 and each institution of higher education and private or independent

1 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by
2 Section [61.003](#), Education Code, shall adopt rules to implement the
3 changes in law made by this Act.

4 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.