

HB 185 -- Abducted Children

Co-Sponsors: Schneider, Brown, Parker, Moore, Sander, Goodman, Dixon, Avery

This bill creates a statewide Amber Alert Program for the purpose of identifying and locating abducted children. It defines "abducted children" as children who are under 17 years of age who are believed to have been kidnapped by someone other than a family member and who are in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death, as determined by law enforcement officials.

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to establish a statewide Amber Alert system, to coordinate local law enforcement agencies and television and radio broadcasters, and to develop regions for the program. The department also has the authority to notify other regions when there is credible evidence that an abduction is moving across regions. It requires a state Amber Alert coordinator to be appointed within the department to coordinate efforts between federal, state, and local entities.

The bill also creates a statewide Amber Alert Advisory Board. The presiding officer of the board is the state Amber Alert coordinator. Other members of the board include the Attorney General or the Attorney General's representative, a representative of law enforcement, a representative of the media, and one citizen representative from each Amber Alert area.

The currently existing Amber Alert system must become compliant with the department's program by January 1, 2004.