

HCS HB 1840 -- ALERT SYSTEM FOR MISSING PERSONS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SPONSOR: Gallick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1840.

This bill creates within the Department of Public Safety a program called the "Purple Alert System" to aid in the identification and location of missing persons with "developmental disabilities", as defined in the bill, whose disappearance poses a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to themselves.

Prior to July 1, 2027, the Department must, along with the State Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Senior Services, the State lottery, and local law enforcement, develop a training program and alert system for missing persons with developmental disabilities and establish policies and procedures for responding to a reported missing person emergency for missing persons with developmental disabilities. The Department of Public safety will administer and create rules for the implementation of the alert system.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the state has taken important steps to protect vulnerable populations via alert, but there is no alert system for individuals with developmental disabilities. They further state that families should not have to navigate emergencies alone. This reflects commitment to inclusion and dignity, creating a lifesaving alert system and closing a dangerous gap. This would enable law enforcement and the public to issue alerts. There has been an increase in autism diagnoses with a 3.2% increase since 2022. This would help law enforcement and communities respond quickly, as the approachability and situation are different, and the danger is extreme.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Gallick; Antoinette Redmond; Danielle Rocha; Jonathan Wiley Packard; Kia Walsh, Sherwood Autism Center; Kyra Snowbarger; Mendy Graham; Patience Hope Arndt; Richard Okeefe; Yvonnr Miller; Missouri Association Of Sheltered Workshop Managers; Missouri Chapter Of The American Academy Of Pediatrics; Phoenix Home & Hospice Care; Woodhaven, Inc.; Abigail Stephenson; Anthony Jackson; Arnie C. Dienoff; Hali Rauer; Joy Sweeney, Woodhaven; Missouri Association Of County Developmental Disabilities Services.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.