

HB19 INTRODUCED



1 HB19
2 EM7Q22C-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25
6 PFD: 08-Jul-24



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing federal law, the AMBER Alert System sends an alert to assist in the recovery of a child under 17 years of age who a law enforcement agency believes has been abducted and is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.

Under existing state law, the Missing and Endangered Persons Alert Act sends an alert when the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency believes an individual has been abducted and has a reasonable belief that the individual is at risk of bodily harm or death.

This bill would create an Ebony Alert System to send an alert to assist in the recovery of a Black youth, including a young woman or girl, under certain circumstances.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public safety; to create an Ebony Alert System to send an alert to assist in the recovery of a Black youth, including a young woman or girl, under certain



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29 circumstances.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, "Ebony
32 Alert" means a notification system, activated pursuant to
33 subsection (b), designed to issue and coordinate alerts for
34 Black youth, including young women and girls, who are reported
35 missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.

36 (b) (1) If an individual is reported missing to a law
37 enforcement agency and that agency determines that the
38 requirements of subsection (c) are met, the law enforcement
39 agency may request the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency to
40 activate an Ebony Alert.

41 (2) If the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency concurs
42 that the requirements of subsection (c) have been met, it
43 shall activate an Ebony Alert within the appropriate
44 geographical area requested by the investigating law
45 enforcement agency.

46 (3) Radio, television, cable, satellite, and social
47 media systems are encouraged to cooperate with disseminating
48 the information contained in an Ebony Alert.

49 (4) Upon activation of an Ebony Alert, the Alabama
50 State Law Enforcement Agency shall assist the investigating
51 law enforcement agency by issuing a be-on-the-lookout alert,
52 an electronic flyer, or changeable message signs in compliance
53 with subdivision (5).

54 (5) Upon activation of an Ebony Alert, the Alabama
55 State Law Enforcement Agency may use a changeable message sign
56 if both of the following conditions are met:



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57 a. A law enforcement agency determines that a vehicle
58 may be involved in the incident.

59 b. Specific identifying information about the vehicle
60 is available for public dissemination.

61 (c) A law enforcement agency may request that an Ebony
62 Alert be activated if that agency determines that an Ebony
63 Alert would be an effective tool in the investigation of
64 missing Black youth, including a young woman or girl, after
65 considering the following factors:

66 (1) The missing individual is between 12 to 25 years of
67 age.

68 (2) The missing individual suffers from a mental or
69 physical disability.

70 (3) The individual is missing under circumstances that
71 indicate any of the following:

72 a. The missing individual's physical safety may be
73 endangered.

74 b. The disappearance of the missing individual may not
75 have been voluntary, including an abduction or kidnapping.

76 c. The missing individual may be subject to
77 trafficking.

78 (4) The law enforcement agency determines that the
79 individual has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious
80 circumstances.

81 (5) The law enforcement agency believes any of the
82 following:

83 a. The individual is in danger because of age, health,
84 mental or physical disability, or environmental or weather



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85 related conditions.

86 b. The individual is in the company of a potentially
87 dangerous individual.

88 c. There are other factors indicating that the
89 individual may be in peril.

90 (6) The investigating law enforcement agency has
91 utilized available local resources.

92 (7) There is information available that, if
93 disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery
94 of the missing individual.

95 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
96 1, 2025.