

Amendment No. 1 to SB1929

Gardenhire  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 1929\***

**House Bill No. 2223**

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting:

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of this State finds and declares that:

(1) According to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, approximately six hundred thousand people go missing every year in the United States. Youth eighteen years of age and under account for about thirty-five percent of these reported cases;

(2) The AMBER Alert system authorizes law enforcement agencies to use digital messaging on overhead roadway signs to assist in recovery efforts for child abduction cases;

(3) The AMBER Alert system must fulfill strict criteria for the message to be broadcast. If those criteria are not met, an AMBER Alert cannot be issued, and the child is labeled as a runaway;

(4) When a missing child is listed as a runaway, the child receives no media coverage and fewer police and government resources are available for the child's recovery; and

(5) Being identified as a runaway can also be a legal loophole for law enforcement because when a child is listed as a runaway, law enforcement is allowed to delay response and investigation time. In cases where the child is mislabeled as a runaway, this delay is crucial time that could be spent locating a child in danger; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this General Assembly to provide law enforcement with additional tools to disseminate timely, accurate information to engage the public and the media

to more effectively assist with locating children and young women who are missing in this State;  
now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-6-127, is amended by deleting "twenty-one (21) years of age" and substituting "twenty-five (25) years of age".

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.