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H.B. 217 136th General Assembly	Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cockley and Ritter

Shalanda R. Plowden, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Names the act the Finding and Identifying with NamUs Data (FIND) Act.

- Requires law enforcement to enter information from a missing child report into the NamUs database if a missing child is not located within 30 days after receiving the report.

- Requires law enforcement to update NamUs when a missing child whose information was integrated into NamUs is found.

- Requires all law enforcement agencies to have a best practices protocol that requires agencies to enter information relating to a report of a missing person into NamUs if the person is not located within 30 days.

- Requires law enforcement to make available through NamUs information from a missing person report if a missing person between the ages of 18 through 20 is not located within 30 days after receiving the report or additional information.

- Requires law enforcement to make available through NamUs information from a missing person report if a missing person who is 21 or older is not located within 30 days after receiving the report or additional information.

- Defines the term "NamUs."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Finding and Identifying with NamUs Data (FIND) Act

The bill names the act the Finding and Identifying with NamUs Data (FIND) Act.[1]

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[1] Section 3.

Entering missing children's information into NamUs

The bill requires law enforcement to integrate the information in a missing child report and other relevant information into NamUs, if a missing child is not located within 30 days after the date on which the missing child report pertaining to the child is filed with a law enforcement agency.[2] The bill gives law enforcement the choice to enter a missing child's information into NamUs after the process of procuring the child's dental records is completed, but only if the process becomes unduly burdensome or time consuming.[3]

The bill also requires law enforcement to promptly report to NamUs if a missing child, whose information was integrated into NamUs, has been found.[4]

The bill defines "NamUs" as the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System created by the U.S. Department of Justice.[5] NamUs is a national centralized repository and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States. NamUs helps investigators match long-term missing persons with unidentified remains to resolve cases and bring resolution to families and also offers professionals free forensic services.[6]

Best practices protocol for addressing reports of missing persons

The bill requires that the best practices protocol that is published and distributed by the Attorney General require all law enforcement agencies to enter information relating to a report of a missing person into NamUs if a missing child is not located within 30 days after the report is made.[7]

Entering missing person's information into NamUs

Under current law, if a law enforcement agency receives an initial report or receives additional information for the report that a person who is at least 18 but less than 21 years of age is missing, the law enforcement agency must make available through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) all information contained in the report immediately after the law enforcement agency receives the report or additional information. The bill requires that the law enforcement agency also make available through NamUs information contained in the report if a missing person is not located within 30 days after the law enforcement agency receives the report or additional information.[8]

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[2] R.C. 2901.30(G)(2).

[3] R.C. 2901.30(G)(1) and (G)(2).

[4] R.C. 2901.30(H)(2).

[5] R.C. 2901.30(A)(4) and 2901.41(A)(2).

[6] NamUs (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System).

[7] R.C. 2901.41(B). The phrase "missing child" was drafted in error and should instead say "missing person."

[8] R.C. 2901.42(A)(2).

Under the bill, if a law enforcement agency receives a report that a person who is 21 years of age or older is missing, the law enforcement agency must make available through NamUs information contained in the report if the missing person is not located within 30 days after the law enforcement agency receives the report or additional information.[9]

Current law requires a law enforcement agency that made available through NCIC information contained in a report that a person is missing and the missing person is found to promptly remove that information from the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS). The bill requires the law enforcement agency to also report to NamUs that the person, whose information was integrated into NamUs, has been found.[10]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-01-25

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[9] R.C. 2901.42(B)(3).

[10] R.C. 2901.42(C).