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H.B. 23*
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Public Safety

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Roemer and Williams

Sarah A. Maki, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Creates the Escaped Convict Alert Program.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Escaped Convict Alert Program

The bill creates the Escaped Convict Alert Program to aid in the identification and location of any person who was convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony offense or was indicted or otherwise charged with the commission of a felony offense who has escaped from a jail, workhouse, or correctional institution (but not from a community-based correctional facility or halfway house) while incarcerated for or awaiting adjudication of that felony offense.¹

A law enforcement agency that receives a notice of escape regarding a person who meets the above listed offense criteria may activate the Escaped Convict Alert Program for the surrounding area or region of the jail, workhouse, or correctional institution from which the person has escaped.² “Law enforcement agency” means an organization or unit made up of law enforcement officers.³

The Escaped Convict Alert Program does not prevent the activation of a local or regional alert program that may impose different criteria for the activation of a local or regional alert.⁴

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Public Safety Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5502.54(B)(1).

² R.C. 5502.54(B)(2).

³ R.C. 5502.54(A).

⁴ R.C. 5502.54(C).

Nothing in the Escaped Convict Alert Program is to be construed to authorize the use of the federal emergency alert system unless otherwise authorized by federal law.⁵

Any radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, or cable system participating in the Escaped Convict Alert Program or in any local or regional alert program, and any director, officer, employee, or agent of any station or system participating in either type of alert program, is not liable to any person for damages for any loss allegedly caused by or resulting from the station's or system's broadcast or cablecast of, or failure to broadcast or cablecast, any information pursuant to the Escaped Convict Alert Program or the local or regional alert program.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-27-25
Reported, H. Public Safety	--

ANHB0023RH-136/ar

⁵ R.C. 5502.54(E).

⁶ R.C. 5502.54(D).