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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 359
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 359's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Children and Human Services

Primary Sponsors: Reps. C. Thomas and Gross

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. It clarifies that if a missing child has autism spectrum disorder or another developmental disability, the local investigating law enforcement agency must notify the existing statewide emergency alert program that the agency has received information that meets the activation criteria as soon as that information has been verified. As such, the bill may shift the timing of the associated administrative workload to the extent such alerts are activated sooner by local law enforcement. Such alerts are initiated by local law enforcement through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), which is a free service provided to criminal justice agencies by the Ohio Attorney General.

Currently, the alert system is implemented for certain individuals, including those with autism spectrum disorder or another developmental disability, when activation criteria are met (outlined in the [LSC bill analysis](#)), but there is no specified timeframe for alert.¹ It is important to note that the bill generally does not change the activation criteria, although it does specify that a “credible threat of immediate danger,” which is one of the existing requirements for activation, includes situations in which the missing individual is nonverbal, has limited communication ability, or otherwise lacks the capacity to seek help or ensure their own safety.

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¹ A local investigating law enforcement agency is generally not required to notify the statewide emergency alert program that the law enforcement agency has received information that meets the activation criteria listed above during the first 24 hours after the agency receives the information.