

Legislative Analysis



AMBER ALERTS FOR CERTAIN MISSING CHILDREN

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4517 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Jerry Neyer

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4518 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Angela Rigas

Committee: Families and Veterans
Complete to 7-29-25

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4518 would amend the Michigan Amber Alert Act, which requires the Department of State Police (MSP) to establish policies for the activation of the state AMBER Alert plan, which is used to disseminate information to Michigan radio and television stations when a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger of serious harm.¹ AMBER Alerts are also sent as wireless emergency alerts to mobile devices, sometimes in a targeted geographic area, by authorized governmental agencies.

The bill would add that those policies must require the activation of the AMBER Alert plan for a report of either of the following:

- A missing child with special needs.
- A missing child MSP believes to be in danger after a law enforcement agency conducts a preliminary investigation.

The bill may be known as the Rowan Act.

MCL 28.753

House Bill 4517 would amend the Child Abduction Broadcast Act to allow radio and television stations to broadcast information concerning a report of a missing child received from MSP under the Michigan Amber Alert Act. The applicable provisions now refer only to information concerning a child abduction.

The bill also would specifically authorize those entities to broadcast AMBER Alert information through social media.

Finally, the bill would change the title of the act to the Child Abduction and Missing Child Broadcast Act.

The bill cannot take effect unless House Bill 4518 is also enacted.

MCL 28.761, 28.762, and 28.765

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/services/alerts> and <https://amberalert.ojp.gov/about/faqs>

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills could have a nominal fiscal impact on the Department of State Police. The provisions of the bills that would require MSP to activate the state AMBER Alert plan more frequently may result in increased costs that could likely be absorbed by existing appropriations. However, because the number of missing child reports cannot be predicted with certainty and the cost of activating the plan in response to a report is not known, an estimate of the fiscal impact on the state cannot be made.

The bills would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.