

HOUSE BILL NO. 4331

April 17, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Edwards, Miller, Grant, Young, McFall, Myers-Phillips, Scott, B. Carter, Neeley, Price, Hoskins, O'Neal, Martus, Wilson, McKinney, T. Carter, MacDonell, Rheingans, Mentzer, Byrnes, Tsernoglou and Johnsen and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to prescribe the ebony alert as the official response to reports of abductions of certain qualifying individuals; to prohibit certain conduct; to create the ebony alert fund; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities; and to prescribe penalties.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "Ebony alert act".

2 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

3 (a) "At risk" means in imminent danger of serious bodily harm
4 or death.

5 (b) "Department" means the department of state police.

1 (c) "Ebony alert" means a notification system that is
2 activated in accordance with this act and designed to issue and
3 coordinate alerts with respect to a qualifying individual who is
4 reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances and
5 who is at risk, developmentally disabled, cognitively impaired, or
6 abducted.

7 (d) "False report" means a false report that an individual is
8 missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances or a false
9 report that an individual who is missing under unexplained or
10 suspicious circumstances is at risk, developmentally disabled,
11 cognitively impaired, or abducted.

12 (e) "Fund" means the ebony alert fund created in section 11.

13 (f) "Qualifying individual" means a woman between the ages of
14 18 and 65.

15 Sec. 5. A law enforcement agency that receives notice that a
16 qualifying individual is missing under unexplained or suspicious
17 circumstances and has a reasonable belief that the qualifying
18 individual is at risk, developmentally disabled, cognitively
19 impaired, or abducted shall notify the department and request that
20 an alert be issued under the ebony alert plan.

21 Sec. 7. (1) The department shall establish and maintain the
22 ebony alert plan.

23 (2) The ebony alert plan must be designed to rapidly
24 disseminate useful information in a predetermined manner to radio
25 and television stations within this state.

26 Sec. 9. The ebony alert plan must be activated only in
27 accordance with the policies established by the department.

28 Sec. 11. (1) The ebony alert fund is created in the department
29 to provide funds for the maintenance, operation, and administration

1 of the ebony alert plan. The department is the administrator of the
2 fund for auditing purposes.

3 (2) The state treasurer shall credit to the fund all amounts
4 appropriated for this purpose and money from any other source for
5 deposit into the fund.

6 (3) The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the
7 fund. The fund must consist of the money credited to the fund, any
8 interest and earnings accruing from the saving and investment of
9 that money and money from any other source.

10 (4) Money in the fund at the close of the year must remain in
11 the fund and not lapse to the general fund.

12 (5) The money, interest, and earnings of the fund must be
13 expended solely for the purposes described in this act. The money
14 in the fund that is available for distribution must be appropriated
15 each year. Money granted or received as a gift or donation to the
16 fund is available for distribution on appropriation.

17 Sec. 13. (1) A person shall not intentionally make a false
18 report, or intentionally cause a false report to be made, to a law
19 enforcement officer, law enforcement agency, local unit of
20 government, 9-1-1 operator, or any other governmental employee or
21 contractor or employee of a contractor who is authorized to receive
22 the report, knowing the report is a false report. A person who
23 violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by
24 imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than
25 \$1,000.00, or both.

26 (2) The court may order a person that is 18 years of age or
27 older and that is convicted under this section to pay to the state
28 or a local unit of government and the media the costs of responding
29 to the false report, including, but not limited to, use of police

1 or fire emergency response vehicles and teams, under section 1f of
2 chapter IX of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL
3 769.1f.

4 (3) As used in this section:

5 (a) "Local unit of government" means:

6 (i) A city, village, township, or county.

7 (ii) A local or intermediate school district.

8 (iii) A public school academy.

9 (iv) A community college.

10 (b) "State" includes, but is not limited to, a state
11 institution of higher education.