

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 677**

**Representative Roemer**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 5502.54 of the Revised Code to  
create the escaped convict alert program. 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 5502.54 of the Revised Code be  
enacted to read as follows: 3  
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**Sec. 5502.54.** (A) "Law enforcement agency" means an  
organization or unit made up of law enforcement officers as  
defined in section 2901.01 of the Revised Code. 5  
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(B) (1) The escaped convict alert program is created 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 while incarcerated for or awaiting adjudication of  
that felony offense. 8  
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(2) A law enforcement agency that receives a notice  
pursuant to section 341.011, 753.19, or 5120.14 of the Revised  
Code regarding a 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 may activate the escaped 15  
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convict alert program for the surrounding area or region of the 20  
jail, workhouse, or correctional institution from which the 21  
person has escaped. 22

(C) Nothing in division (B) of this section prevents the 23  
activation of a local or regional alert program that may impose 24  
different criteria for the activation of a local or regional 25  
alert. 26

(D) Any radio broadcast station, television broadcast 27  
station, or cable system participating in the statewide escaped 28  
convict alert program or in any local or regional alert program, 29  
and any director, officer, employee, or agent of any station or 30  
system participating in either type of alert program, shall not 31  
be liable to any person for damages for any loss allegedly 32  
caused by or resulting from the station's or system's broadcast 33  
or cablecast of, or failure to broadcast or cablecast, any 34  
information pursuant to the statewide escaped convict alert 35  
program or the local or regional alert program. 36

(E) Nothing in this section shall be construed to 37  
authorize the use of the federal emergency alert system unless 38  
otherwise authorized by federal law. 39