As Passed by the House

136th General Assembly

Regular Session 2025-2026

H. B. No. 144

Representatives Click, Lorenz

Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Deeter, Thomas, D., Fischer, Mohamed, Odioso, Newman, Salvo, Baker, Bird, Brennan, Brewer, Brownlee, Creech, Denson, Dovilla, Ghanbari, Glassburn, Grim, Gross, Hall, D., Hall, T., Hiner, Isaacsohn, John, Johnson, Jones, Kishman, Lampton, LaRe, Lett, Manning, Mathews, A., Mathews, T., McNally, Miller, K., Miller, M., Mullins, Peterson, Pizzulli, Plummer, Ray, Robb Blasdel, Rogers, Sigrist, Sweeney, Synenberg, Upchurch, White, A., White, E., Willis, Young

Τc	amend sections 3304.23 and 5502.08 of the	1
	Revised Code to expand the communication	2
	disability database to include any person with a	3
	disability, to expand access to that database	4
	through countywide 9-1-1 systems, and to name	5
	this act "Keith's Law".	6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3304.23 and 5502.08 of the	7
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	8
Sec. 3304.23. (A) As used in this section:	9
(1) "Clinical nurse specialist" and "certified nurse	10
practitioner" have the same meanings as in section 4723.01 of	11
the Revised Code.	12
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(2) "Communication disability" means a human condition	13
involving an impairment in the human's ability to receive, send,	14
process, or comprehend concepts or verbal, nonverbal, or graphic	15

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symbol systems that may result in a primary disability or may be	16
secondary to other disabilities.	17
(3)—"Disability-that can impair communication" means a-	18
human condition with symptoms that can impair the human's	19
ability to receive, send, process, or comprehend concepts or-	20
verbal, nonverbal, or graphic symbol systemsan intellectual	21
impairment, a hearing impairment (including deafness), a speech	22
or language impairment, a visual impairment (including	23
blindness), a serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic	24
impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, a serious health	25
impairment, a specific learning impairment (including dyslexia),	26
deaf-blindness, or a mental health condition with symptoms that	27
make it difficult for a person to do certain activities or to	28
interact with others.	
(4) (3) "Guardian" has the same meaning as in section	30
2111.01 of the Revised Code.	31
ziii.oi oi che nevisea code.	51
(5)(4) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice	32
medicine or surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery under	33
Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code.	34
(6) (5) "Psychiatrist" has the same meaning as in section	35
5122.01 of the Revised Code.	36
(7) (6) "Psychologist" has the same meaning as in section	37
4732.01 of the Revised Code.	38
(B) The opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency	39
shall develop a verification form for a person diagnosed with a	40
communication disability or a disability that can impair	41
communication to be submitted voluntarily to the department of	42
public safety so that the person may be included in the database	43
established under section 5502.08 of the Revised Code. The same	44

form shall be used to indicate that the person wishes to be 45 removed from the database in accordance with division (F) of 46 section 5502.08 of the Revised Code. 47 (C) The form shall include the following information: 48 (1) The name of the person diagnosed with a communication 49 disability or a disability that can impair communication; 50 (2) The name of the person completing the form on behalf 51 of the person diagnosed with a communication disability or a 52 disability that can impair communication, if applicable; 53 (3) The relationship between the person completing the 54 form and the person diagnosed with a communication disability or 55 a disability that can impair communication, if applicable; 56 (4) The residential address of the individual in division 57 (C)(1) or (2) of this section; 58 (5) The telephone number of the individual in division (C) 59 (1) or (2) of this section; 60 (4) (6) The driver's license number or state identification 61 card number issued to the person diagnosed with a communication-62 disability or a disability that can impair communication, if 63

that person has such a number;

(5) (7)The license plate number of each vehicle owned,65operated, or regularly occupied by the person diagnosed with a66communication disability or a disability that can impair67communication or registered in that person's name;68

(6) (8)A certification that the person has been diagnosed69with a communication disability or a disability that can impair70communication, signed by a psychiatrist or other physician, a71psychologist, a clinical nurse specialist, or a certified nurse72

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73 practitioner; (7) (9) The name, business address, business telephone 74 number, and professional license number of the professional 75 making the certification described in division (C)(6) of this 76 section: 77 (8) (10) The signature of the person diagnosed with a 78 communication disability or a disability that can impair 79 communication or the signature of the person completing the form 80 on behalf of such a person; 81 (9) (11) A place where the person diagnosed with a 82 communication disability or a disability that can impair 83 communication or the person completing the form on behalf of 84 such a person may indicate the desire to be removed from the 85 database. 86 (D) Any of the following persons may complete the 87 verification form: 88 (1) Any person diagnosed with a communication disability 89 or a disability that can impair communication who is eighteen 90 years of age or older; 91 (2) The parent or parents of a minor child diagnosed with 92 a communication disability or a disability that can impair 93 94 communication; (3) The guardian of a person diagnosed with a 95 communication disability or a disability that can impair 96 communication, regardless of the age of the person. 97 (E) (E) (1) The opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities 98 agency, the department of developmental disabilities, and the 99 department of public safety shall make the verification form 100

electronically available on each of their respective web sites.	101
(2) The opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency	102
and the department of developmental disabilities shall conduct	103
public outreach concerning the existence of the database created	104
under section 5502.08 of the Revised Code and include	105
information regarding the database on their respective web	106
sites.	107
Sec. 5502.08. (A) As used in this section:	108
(1) "Communication disability" has the same meaning as in-	109
section 3304.23 of the Revised Code.	110
(2)—"Disability-that can impair communication" has the	111
same meaning as in section 3304.23 of the Revised Code.	112
(2) "Emergency medical service personnel" and	113
"firefighter" have the same meanings as in section 4765.01 of	114
the Revised Code.	
(3) "Guardian" has the same meaning as in section 2111.01	116
of the Revised Code.	117
(4) "Ward" has the same meaning as in section 2111.01 of	118
the Revised Code.	119
(B) The department of public safety shall establish and	120
maintain a database of persons who register under this section	121
as being diagnosed with a communication disability or a	122
disability that can impair communication.	123
(C) Any person diagnosed with a communication disability	124
or a disability that can impair communication who is eighteen	125
years of age or older may register with the department for	126
inclusion in the database by submitting a completed verification	127
form established by the opportunities for Ohioans with	128

disabilities agency under section 3304.23 of the Revised Code. 129 (D) Any parent or guardian of a minor child or a ward 130 diagnosed with a communication disability or a disability that 131 can impair communication may register the minor child or the 132 ward with the department for inclusion in the database by 133 submitting a completed verification form established by the 134 opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency under section 135 3304.23 of the Revised Code. 136 137 (E)(1) The department shall include in the database information provided on a completed verification form that the 138 department determines is necessary for a law enforcement 139 officer, emergency medical service personnel, or firefighter to 140 identify a person as diagnosed with a communication disability-141 or a disability that can impair communication. The department 142 shall make the database available to state and local law 143 enforcement officers, emergency medical service personnel, and 144 firefighters through the both of the following, as applicable: 145 (a) The law enforcement automated data system; 146 (b) Each countywide 9-1-1 system established under section 147 128.03 of the Revised Code. A countywide 9-1-1 system shall use 148 the database to provide information concerning an individual's 149 disability to local law enforcement officers, emergency medical 150 service personnel, and firefighters, as applicable, that are 151 responding to a 9-1-1 communication concerning that individual. 152 (2) Information in the database is not a public record 153 subject to inspection or copying under section 149.43 of the 154 Revised Code. 155

(F) A person diagnosed with a communication disability or 156
a disability that can impair communication who is included in 157

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the database or the parent or guardian of a minor child or a	158
ward diagnosed with a communication disability or a disability	159
that can impair communication who is included in the database	160
may request removal of the person, minor, or ward, as	161
applicable, from the database. The person, parent, or guardian	162
shall do so by completing the verification form with only the	163
information required under divisions (C)(1), (2), (3), $\frac{(8)}{(10)}$,	164
and $\frac{(9)}{(11)}$ of section 3304.23 of the Revised Code, as	165
applicable, and submitting the form to the department. Upon	166
receipt of a properly completed verification form requesting the	167
removal of a person with a communication disability or a	168
disability that can impair communication from the database, the	169
department shall immediately remove that person from the	170
database.	171
Section 2. That existing sections 3304.23 and 5502.08 of	172
Section 2. That existing Sections 3304.25 and 3302.08 Of	1/2
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	

Section 3. This act shall be known as Keith's Law. 174