

As Introduced

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Representatives Cockley, Ritter

**Cosponsors: Representatives Grim, Denson, Sigrist, Gross, Abdullahi, Miller, J.,
Brennan, Isaacsohn, Newman, Workman, White, E., Daniels, Odioso, Jarrells,
Brewer, Synenberg, Rader**

To amend sections 2901.30, 2901.41, and 2901.42 of	1
the Revised Code to enact the Finding and	2
Identifying with NamUs Data (FIND) Act to	3
require law enforcement agencies to enter	4
information relating to a report of a missing	5
person in the national missing and unidentified	6
persons system (NamUs).	7

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

Section 1. That sections 2901.30, 2901.41, and 2901.42 of	8
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	9

Sec. 2901.30. (A) As used in sections 2901.30 to 2901.32	10
of the Revised Code:	11

(1) "Information" means information that can be integrated	12
into the computer system and that relates to the physical or	13
mental description of a minor including, but not limited to,	14
height, weight, color of hair and eyes, use of eyeglasses or	15
contact lenses, skin coloring, physical or mental disabilities,	16
special medical conditions or needs, abnormalities, problems,	17
scars and marks, and distinguishing characteristics, and other	18

information that could assist in identifying a minor including, 19
but not limited to, full name and nickname, date and place of 20
birth, age, names and addresses of parents and other relatives, 21
fingerprints, dental records, photographs, social security 22
number, driver's license number, credit card numbers, bank 23
account numbers, and clothing. 24

(2) "Minor" means a person under eighteen years of age. 25

(3) "Missing children" or "missing child" means either of 26
the following: 27

(a) A minor who has run away from or who otherwise is 28
missing from the home of, or the care, custody, and control of, 29
the minor's parents, parent who is the residential parent and 30
legal custodian, guardian, legal custodian, or other person 31
having responsibility for the care of the minor; 32

(b) A minor who is missing and about whom there is reason 33
to believe the minor could be the victim of a violation of 34
section 2905.01, 2905.02, 2905.03, or 2919.23 of the Revised 35
Code or of a violation of section 2905.04 of the Revised Code as 36
it existed prior to July 1, 1996. 37

(4) "NamUs" means the national missing and unidentified 38
persons system created by the United States department of 39
justice. 40

(B) When a law enforcement agency in this state that has 41
jurisdiction in the matter is informed that a minor is or may be 42
a missing child and that the person providing the information 43
wishes to file a missing child report, the law enforcement 44
agency shall take that report. Upon taking the report, the law 45
enforcement agency shall take prompt action upon it, including, 46
but not limited to, concerted efforts to locate the missing 47

child. No law enforcement agency in this state shall have a rule 48
or policy that prohibits or discourages the filing of or the 49
taking of action upon a missing child report, within a specified 50
period following the discovery or formulation of a belief that a 51
minor is or could be a missing child. 52

(C) If a missing child report is made to a law enforcement 53
agency in this state that has jurisdiction in the matter, the 54
law enforcement agency shall gather readily available 55
information about the missing child and integrate it into the 56
national crime information center computer immediately following 57
the making of the report. The law enforcement agency shall make 58
reasonable efforts to acquire additional information about the 59
missing child following the transmittal of the initially 60
available information, and promptly integrate any additional 61
information acquired into such computer systems. 62

Whenever a law enforcement agency integrates information 63
about a missing child into the national crime information center 64
computer, the law enforcement agency promptly shall notify the 65
missing child's parents, parent who is the residential parent 66
and legal custodian, guardian, or legal custodian, or any other 67
person responsible for the care of the missing child, that it 68
has so integrated the information. 69

The parents, parent who is the residential parent and 70
legal custodian, guardian, legal custodian, or other person 71
responsible for the care of the missing child shall provide 72
available information upon request, and may provide information 73
voluntarily, to the law enforcement agency during the 74
information gathering process. The law enforcement agency also 75
may obtain available information about the missing child from 76
other persons, subject to constitutional and statutory 77

limitations. 78

(D) Upon the filing of a missing child report, the law 79
enforcement agency involved may notify the public or nonpublic 80
school in which the missing child is or was most recently 81
enrolled, as ascertained by the agency, that the child is the 82
subject of a missing child report and that the child's school 83
records are to be marked in accordance with section 3313.672 of 84
the Revised Code. 85

(E) Upon the filing of a missing child report, the law 86
enforcement agency involved promptly shall make a reasonable 87
attempt to notify other law enforcement agencies within its 88
county and, if the agency has jurisdiction in a municipal 89
corporation or township that borders another county, to notify 90
the law enforcement agency for the municipal corporation or 91
township in the other county with which it shares the border, 92
that it has taken a missing child report and may be requesting 93
assistance or cooperation in the case, and provide relevant 94
information to the other law enforcement agencies. The agency 95
may notify additional law enforcement agencies, or appropriate 96
public children services agencies, about the case, request their 97
assistance or cooperation in the case, and provide them with 98
relevant information. 99

Upon request from a law enforcement agency, a public 100
children services agency shall grant the law enforcement agency 101
access to all information concerning a missing child that the 102
agency possesses that may be relevant to the law enforcement 103
agency in investigating a missing child report concerning that 104
child. The information obtained by the law enforcement agency 105
shall be used only to further the investigation to locate the 106
missing child. 107

(F) Upon request, law enforcement agencies in this state 108
shall provide assistance to, and cooperate with, other law 109
enforcement agencies in their investigation of missing child 110
cases. The assistance and cooperation under this paragraph shall 111
be pursuant to any terms agreed upon by the law enforcement 112
agencies, which may include the provision of law enforcement 113
services or the use of law enforcement equipment or the 114
interchange of services and equipment among the cooperating law 115
enforcement agencies. Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code, insofar 116
as it applies to the operation of law enforcement agencies, 117
shall apply to the cooperating political subdivisions and to the 118
law enforcement agency employees when they are rendering 119
services pursuant to this paragraph outside the territory of the 120
political subdivision by which they are employed. Law 121
enforcement agency employees rendering services outside the 122
territory of the political subdivision in which they are 123
employed, pursuant to this paragraph, shall be entitled to 124
participate in any indemnity fund established by their employer 125
to the same extent as if they were rendering service within the 126
territory of their employing political subdivision. Those law 127
enforcement agency employees also shall be entitled to all the 128
rights and benefits of Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code to the 129
same extent as if rendering services within the territory of 130
their employing political subdivision. 131

The information in any missing child report made to a law 132
enforcement agency shall be made available, upon request, to law 133
enforcement personnel of this state, other states, and the 134
federal government when the law enforcement personnel indicate 135
that the request is to aid in identifying or locating a missing 136
child or the possible identification of a deceased minor who, 137
upon discovery, cannot be identified. 138

~~(G)~~ (G) (1) When a missing child has not been located within 139
thirty days after the date on which the missing child report 140
pertaining to the child was filed with a law enforcement agency, 141
that law enforcement agency shall request the missing child's 142
parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal 143
custodian, guardian, or legal custodian, or any other person 144
responsible for the care of the missing child, to provide 145
written consent for the law enforcement agency to contact the 146
missing child's dentist and request the missing child's dental 147
records. Upon receipt of such written consent, the dentist shall 148
release a copy of the missing child's dental records to the law 149
enforcement agency and shall provide and encode the records in 150
such form as requested by the law enforcement agency. The law 151
enforcement agency then shall integrate information in the 152
records into the national crime information center computer-in 153
order to compare the records to those of unidentified deceased 154
persons. This division does not prevent a law enforcement agency 155
from seeking consent to obtain copies of a missing child's 156
dental records, or prevent a missing child's parents, parent who 157
is the residential parent and legal custodian, guardian, or 158
legal custodian, or any other person responsible for the care of 159
the missing child, from granting consent for the release of 160
copies of the missing child's dental records to a law 161
enforcement agency, at any time. 162

(2) When a missing child is not located within thirty days 163
after the date on which the missing child report pertaining to 164
the child is filed with a law enforcement agency, that law 165
enforcement agency shall integrate the information in the report 166
and other relevant information into NamUs. The law enforcement 167
agency may choose to integrate the information after the process 168
described in division (G) (1) of this section is completed, 169

unless the process becomes unduly burdensome or time consuming. 170

(H) A missing child's parents, parent who is the 171
residential parent and legal custodian, guardian, or legal 172
custodian, or any other persons responsible for the care of a 173
missing child, immediately shall notify the law enforcement 174
agency with which they filed the missing child report whenever 175
the child has returned to their home or to their care, custody, 176
and control, has been released if the missing child was the 177
victim of an offense listed in division (A) (3) (b) of this 178
section, or otherwise has been located. Upon such notification 179
or upon otherwise learning that a missing child has returned to 180
the home of, or to the care, custody, and control of the missing 181
child's parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal 182
custodian, guardian, legal custodian, or other person 183
responsible for the missing child's care, has been released if 184
the missing child was the victim of an offense listed in 185
division (A) (3) (b) of this section, or otherwise has been 186
located, the law enforcement agency involved promptly shall 187
~~integrate~~ do the following: 188

(1) Integrate the fact that the minor no longer is a 189
missing child into the national crime information center 190
computer; 191

(2) If the missing child's information was integrated into 192
NamUs, report to NamUs that the missing child has been found ~~and~~ 193
~~shall inform;~~ 194

(3) Inform any school that was notified under division (D) 195
of this section that the minor is no longer a missing child. 196

Sec. 2901.41. (A) As used in this section and section 197
2901.42 of the Revised Code, ~~"missing-"~~ 198

(1) "Missing person" means an individual who is eighteen 199
years of age or older, whose temporary or permanent residence is 200
in Ohio, and who meets one of the following characteristics: 201

~~(1)~~(a) The individual has a physical or mental disability. 202

~~(2)~~(b) The individual is missing under circumstances 203
indicating that the individual's safety may be in danger. 204

~~(3)~~(c) The individual is missing under circumstances 205
indicating that the individual's disappearance was not 206
voluntary. 207

(2) "NamUs" means the national missing and unidentified 208
persons system created by the United States department of 209
justice. 210

(B) The attorney general shall publish and distribute to 211
all law enforcement agencies in this state a best practices 212
protocol for addressing reports of missing persons. Each best 213
practices protocol shall require all law enforcement agencies to 214
enter information relating to a report of a missing person into 215
NamUs if a missing child is not located within thirty days 216
following the making of the report. Upon receipt of the best 217
practices protocol from the attorney general, each law 218
enforcement agency in this state shall develop and adopt a 219
written policy establishing reasonable procedures to be followed 220
by the law enforcement agency when the agency is informed that a 221
person is or may be a missing person. 222

(C) After a law enforcement agency adopts a written policy 223
as required by division (B) of this section, the peace officers 224
that are employed by that agency shall make a good faith effort 225
to follow the procedures contained in the policy. 226

(D) The requirements of this section do not create a 227

private cause of action for damages against the state or any law 228
enforcement agency, political subdivision, peace officer, or 229
other person who fails to comply with the requirements of this 230
section. 231

Sec. 2901.42. (A) If a law enforcement agency receives an 232
initial report or receives additional information for the report 233
that a person who is at least eighteen but less than twenty-one 234
years of age is missing, the law enforcement agency shall ~~make~~ 235
do both of the following: 236

(1) Make available through the national crime information 237
center all information contained in the report immediately after 238
the law enforcement agency receives the report or additional 239
information. ~~;~~ 240

(2) Make available through NamUs information contained in 241
the report if a missing person is not located within thirty days 242
after the law enforcement agency receives the report or 243
additional information. 244

(B) (1) If a law enforcement agency receives a report that 245
a person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing and 246
if there is evidence that the person was a victim of foul play 247
at the time the victim is reported missing, the law enforcement 248
agency shall make available through the national crime 249
information center all information contained in the report not 250
later than seven days after the law enforcement agency receives 251
the report. If there is no evidence that the person was a victim 252
of foul play, and no evidence to the contrary is received, the 253
law enforcement agency shall make the information available 254
through the national crime information center not later than 255
thirty days after receiving the report that the person is 256
missing. 257

(2) If a law enforcement agency receives a report that a person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing and there is no evidence of foul play at the time the agency receives the report and if the agency discovers after the law enforcement agency receives the report but before the end of the seven-day period under division (B)(1) of this section evidence that the person who is missing was a victim of foul play, the law enforcement agency shall make available through the national crime information center all information contained in the report by the end of that seven-day period. If a law enforcement agency receives a report that a person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing and there is no evidence of foul play at the time the agency receives the report and if the agency discovers after the end of the seven-day period under division (B)(1) of this section evidence that the person who is missing was a victim of foul play, the law enforcement agency shall make available through the national crime information center—all information contained in the report not later than forty-eight hours after discovering the evidence that the person was a victim of foul play.

(3) If a law enforcement agency receives a report that a person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing, the law enforcement agency shall make available through NamUs information contained in the report if the missing person is not located within thirty days after the law enforcement agency receives the report or additional information.

(C) If a law enforcement agency pursuant to divisions (A) and (B) of this section made available through the national crime information center and NamUs information contained in a report that a person is missing and the missing person is found, the agency shall promptly remove that information from the law

enforcement automated data system and report to NamUs that the 289
person has been found. 290

(D) As used in this section, indicators that a person was 291
a victim of "foul play" include, but are not limited to, 292
evidence that the person's home or car is in disarray, evidence 293
of a struggle between the person and another person, or evidence 294
a law enforcement agency determines to be foul play through the 295
written policy the law enforcement agency develops and adopts 296
pursuant to division (B) of section 2901.41 of the Revised Code. 297

Section 2. That existing sections 2901.30, 2901.41, and 298
2901.42 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 299

Section 3. This act shall be known as the Finding and 300
Identifying with NamUs Data (FIND) Act. 301