

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 23

Representatives Roemer, Williams

**Cosponsors: Representatives Robb Blasdel, Brennan, Click, Daniels, Deeter,
Gross, John, Johnson, Klopfenstein, Richardson, Schmidt, Sigrist, Thomas, C.,
Young**

A BILL

To enact section 5502.54 of the Revised Code to
create the escaped convict alert program.

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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:

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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.

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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.

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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

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Code regarding a person who was convicted of or pleaded guilty 17
to a felony offense or was indicted or otherwise charged with 18
the commission of a felony offense may activate the escaped 19
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 escaped convict 28
alert program or in any local or regional alert program, and any 29
director, officer, employee, or agent of any station or system 30
participating in either type of alert program, shall not be 31
liable to any person for damages for any loss allegedly caused 32
by or resulting from the station's or system's broadcast or 33
cablecast of, or failure to broadcast or cablecast, any 34
information pursuant to the escaped convict alert program or the 35
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