

**As Reported by the House Public Safety Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**Sub. 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, Abrams, Ghanbari, Willis**

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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. For purposes of this section, a jail,  
workhouse, or correctional institution does not include a  
community-based correctional facility or halfway house.

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(2) A law enforcement agency that receives a notice

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pursuant to section 341.011, 753.19, or 5120.14 of the Revised 18  
Code regarding a person who was convicted of or pleaded guilty 19  
to a felony offense or was indicted or otherwise charged with 20  
the commission of a felony offense may activate the escaped 21  
convict alert program for the surrounding area or region of the 22  
jail, workhouse, or correctional institution from which the 23  
person has escaped. 24

(C) Nothing in division (B) of this section prevents the 25  
activation of a local or regional alert program that may impose 26  
different criteria for the activation of a local or regional 27  
alert. 28

(D) Any radio broadcast station, television broadcast 29  
station, or cable system participating in the escaped convict 30  
alert program or in any local or regional alert program, and any 31  
director, officer, employee, or agent of any station or system 32  
participating in either type of alert program, shall not be 33  
liable to any person for damages for any loss allegedly caused 34  
by or resulting from the station's or system's broadcast or 35  
cablecast of, or failure to broadcast or cablecast, any 36  
information pursuant to the escaped convict alert program or the 37  
local or regional alert program. 38

(E) Nothing in this section shall be construed to 39  
authorize the use of the federal emergency alert system unless 40  
otherwise authorized by federal law. 41