

As Passed by the House

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, Abdullahi, Bird, Brent, Brewer, Brownlee, Claggett, Denson, Dovilla, Hall, T., Hoops, Jarrells, King, Lampton, LaRe, Lawson-Rowe, Lear, Lett, Manning, Mathews, A., Mathews, T., Miller, J., Miller, K., Miller, M., Newman, Odioso, Oelslager, Peterson, Plummer, Ray, Ritter, Russo, Salvo, Upchurch, White, A., White, E.

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

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community-based correctional facility or halfway house. 16

(2) A law enforcement agency that receives a notice 17
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