

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

H. B. No. 677

2025-2026

Representatives Synenberg, Abrams

To amend section 2919.23 and to enact sections
2929.45, 4927.25, 4927.26, 4927.27, 4927.28,
4927.29, and 5502.55 of the Revised Code to
modify the law governing interference with
custody, to require wireless service providers
to provide call location information to law
enforcement in certain emergency situations, and
to create an endangered missing child alert.

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

Section 1. That section 2919.23 be amended and sections
2929.45, 4927.25, 4927.26, 4927.27, 4927.28, 4927.29, and
5502.55 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

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Sec. 2919.23. (A) No person, knowing the person is without
privilege to do so or being reckless in that regard, shall
entice, take, keep, or harbor a person identified in division
(A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section from the parent, guardian,
or custodian of the person identified in division (A) (1), (2),
or (3) of this section:

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(1) A child under the age of eighteen, or a child with a
mental or physical disability under the age of twenty-one;

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(2) A person committed by law to an institution for

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delinquent, unruly, neglected, abused, or dependent children; 21

(3) A person committed by law to an institution for 22
persons with mental illnesses or an institution for persons with 23
intellectual disabilities. 24

(B) No person shall aid, abet, induce, cause, or encourage 25
a child or a ward of the juvenile court who has been committed 26
to the custody of any person, department, or public or private 27
institution to leave the custody of that person, department, or 28
institution without legal consent. 29

(C) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of enticing 30
or taking under division (A) (1) of this section, that the actor 31
reasonably believed that the actor's conduct was necessary to 32
preserve the child's health or safety. It is an affirmative 33
defense to a charge of keeping or harboring under division (A) 34
of this section, that the actor in good faith gave notice to law 35
enforcement or judicial authorities within a reasonable time 36
after the child or committed person came under the actor's 37
shelter, protection, or influence. 38

(D) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of 39
interference with custody. 40

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this division 41
(D) (2) (b) or (c) of this section, a violation of division (A) (1) 42
of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If 43

(b) If the child who is the subject of a violation of 44
division (A) (1) of this section is removed from the state or if 45
the offender previously has been convicted of an offense under 46
this section, a violation of division (A) (1) of this section is 47
a felony of the fifth degree. If the child who is the subject of 48
a violation of division (A) (1) of this section suffers physical 49

~~harm as a result of the violation~~, a violation of division (A) 50
(1) of this section is a felony of the fourth degree. 51

(c) If the child who is the subject of a violation of 52
division (A) (1) of this section is removed from the United 53
States, a violation of division (A) (1) of this section is a 54
felony of the third degree. 55

(3) A violation of division (A) (2) or (3) of this section 56
is a misdemeanor of the third degree. 57

(4) A violation of division (B) of this section is a 58
misdemeanor of the first degree. Each day of violation of 59
division (B) of this section is a separate offense. 60

Sec. 2929.45. (A) As used in this section, "local law 61
enforcement agency" means the police department of a municipal 62
corporation in which an offense occurred or, if the offense did 63
not occur in a municipal corporation, the sheriff of the county 64
in which the offense occurred. 65

(B) If the court issues a warrant for the arrest of a 66
person for a violation of section 2919.23 of the Revised Code, 67
the court shall notify the local law enforcement agency of the 68
warrant. The local law enforcement agency shall enter the 69
warrant into the national crime information center computer and 70
the law enforcement automated data system with a national pickup 71
radius. 72

Sec. 4927.25. As used in sections 4927.25 to 4927.29 of 73
the Revised Code: 74

(A) "Call location information" means real-time, precision 75
location requests from a wireless service device, commonly 76
referred to as "pings," and will typically reflect a latitude 77
and longitude along with a certainty factor. 78

<u>(B) "Emergency"</u> means an occurrence or event that poses an imminent threat to the health or life of a human.	79 80
<u>(C) "Law enforcement agency"</u> means an organization or unit made up of law enforcement officers, as such officers are defined in section 2901.01 of the Revised Code.	81 82 83
<u>(D) "Peace officer"</u> has the same meaning as in section 2921.51 of the Revised Code.	84 85
<u>(E) "Public safety answering point"</u> has the same meaning as in section 128.01 of the Revised Code.	86 87
<u>Sec. 4927.26.</u> On request, a wireless service provider shall provide call location information to a law enforcement agency, a peace officer, or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency, concerning a user of a wireless service device in the following circumstances:	88 89 90 91 92
<u>(A) In an emergency situation to enable the peace officer or law enforcement agency to respond to a call for emergency service by a subscriber, customer, or user of wireless service; or</u>	93 94 95 96
<u>(B) In an emergency situation that involves danger of death or serious physical injury to any person, where disclosure of communications relating to the emergency is required without delay; provided that, in either circumstance, the wireless service provider believes, in good faith, that an emergency situation exists requiring disclosure without delay of communications relating to the emergency.</u>	97 98 99 100 101 102 103
<u>Sec. 4927.27.</u> Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a wireless service provider may establish protocols for the voluntary disclosure of call location information.	104 105 106

<u>Sec. 4927.28. (A) The bureau of criminal investigation</u>	107
<u>shall obtain contact information from all wireless service</u>	108
<u>providers authorized to do business in the state to facilitate a</u>	109
<u>request from a law enforcement agency, a peace officer, or a</u>	110
<u>public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement</u>	111
<u>agency, for call location information pursuant to section</u>	112
<u>4927.26 of the Revised Code.</u>	113
<u>(B) The bureau shall disseminate the contact information</u>	114
<u>described in division (A) of this section to each public safety</u>	115
<u>answering point in the state.</u>	116
<u>Sec. 4927.29. No cause of action shall arise in any court</u>	117
<u>of this state against a wireless service provider, or its</u>	118
<u>officers, employees, agents, or other persons, for providing any</u>	119
<u>information, facilities, or assistance to a law enforcement</u>	120
<u>agency, a peace officer, or a public safety answering point on</u>	121
<u>behalf of a law enforcement agency, in accordance with sections</u>	122
<u>4927.25 to 4927.28 of the Revised Code.</u>	123
<u>Sec. 5502.55. (A) As used in this section:</u>	124
<u>(1) "Cable system" has the same meaning as in section</u>	125
<u>2913.04 of the Revised Code.</u>	126
<u>(2) "Law enforcement agency" includes, but is not limited</u>	127
<u>to, a county sheriff's office, the office of a village marshal,</u>	128
<u>a police department of a municipal corporation, a police force</u>	129
<u>of a regional transit authority, a police force of a</u>	130
<u>metropolitan housing authority, the state highway patrol, a</u>	131
<u>state university law enforcement agency, the office of a</u>	132
<u>township police constable, and the police department of a</u>	133
<u>township or joint police district.</u>	134
<u>(B) (1) The statewide endangered missing child emergency</u>	135

alert program is created to aid in the identification and 136
location of endangered missing children who are under eighteen 137
years of age and who, as determined by a law enforcement agency, 138
are at a high risk for serious bodily harm or death. 139

(2) The program shall be a coordinated effort among the 140
governor's office, the department of public safety, the attorney 141
general, law enforcement agencies, the state's public and 142
commercial television and radio broadcasters, and others as 143
deemed necessary by the governor. 144

(3) The state highway patrol and the bureau of criminal 145
identification and investigation may cooperate to ensure that 146
both of the following occur: 147

(a) An endangered missing child that meets the activation 148
criteria in division (C) of this section is entered into the law 149
enforcement automated data system as a missing person. 150

(b) Upon entering the endangered missing child into the 151
law enforcement automated data system, the law enforcement 152
automated data system shall automatically notify law enforcement 153
agencies and the bureau of criminal identification and 154
investigation that the endangered missing child is a missing 155
person. 156

(C) The statewide endangered missing child emergency alert 157
program shall not be implemented unless all of the following 158
activation criteria are met: 159

(1) The local investigating law enforcement agency 160
confirms that the disappearance of the endangered missing child 161
has occurred. 162

(2) The local investigating law enforcement agency 163
determines that the endangered missing child is under eighteen 164

<u>years of age.</u>	165
<u>(3) The local investigating law enforcement agency</u>	166
<u>determines that the disappearance poses a high risk for serious</u>	167
<u>bodily harm or death to the endangered missing child.</u>	168
<u>(4) There is sufficient descriptive information about the</u>	169
<u>endangered missing child and the circumstances surrounding the</u>	170
<u>disappearance to indicate that activation of the alert will help</u>	171
<u>locate the endangered missing child.</u>	172
<u>(D) Nothing in division (C) of this section prevents the</u>	173
<u>activation of a local or regional emergency alert program that</u>	174
<u>may impose different criteria for the activation of a local or</u>	175
<u>regional plan.</u>	176
<u>(E) Any radio broadcast station, television broadcast</u>	177
<u>station, or cable system participating in the statewide</u>	178
<u>endangered missing child emergency alert program, and a</u>	179
<u>director, officer, employee, or agent of a station or system</u>	180
<u>participating in the program, is immune from liability for</u>	181
<u>damages for any loss allegedly caused by or resulting from the</u>	182
<u>station's or system's broadcast or cablecast of, or failure to</u>	183
<u>broadcast or cablecast, any information pursuant to the</u>	184
<u>statewide endangered missing child emergency alert program.</u>	185
<u>(F) No person shall knowingly make a false report that a</u>	186
<u>child is missing and that leads to the implementation of the</u>	187
<u>statewide endangered missing child emergency alert program</u>	188
<u>created under this section or that leads to the implementation</u>	189
<u>of a local or regional emergency alert program. Whoever violates</u>	190
<u>this division is guilty of a felony of the fourth degree.</u>	191
Section 2. That existing section 2919.23 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	192 193