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H.B. 321
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Click and Lorenz

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Statewide 9-1-1 Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”) to establish a special needs database.
- Requires the Steering Committee and the 9-1-1 program office to coordinate with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the Department of Health to conduct public outreach about the special needs database.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The Statewide 9-1-1 Steering Committee is responsible for the operation of a statewide 9-1-1 emergency system. The Committee is known as the “ESINet Steering Committee” because it operates the statewide emergency services internet protocol network, statewide next generation 9-1-1 core-services system, and the dispatch of emergency service providers. 9-1-1 emergency service providers work with the ESINet Steering Committee to facilitate emergency communications (police, fire, medical services) among all levels of government for the public.¹

The bill requires the Steering Committee to establish a special needs database. Emergency responders who respond to an emergency will then be able to access the database prior to arriving at the location and have a better understanding of how to communicate with those involved if they have special needs and are listed in the database. The Steering Committee must adopt rules regarding the database that do all of the following:

- Allow any person with a special need to register to be included in the database;
- Specify types of conditions that constitute a special need for purposes of the database;

¹ R.C. 128.02(C) and (D), not in the bill.

- Allow a person to identify specific individual circumstances, such as an atypical medication dosage or allergy, as a special need;
- Establish a method whereby the database is electronically accessible to all countywide 9-1-1 systems, public safety answering points, and emergency service providers;
- Annually require the Steering Committee to electronically notify each person registered in the database to update and verify information included in the database;
- Allow the Steering Committee to delete and remove information from the database if no annual update or verification is received; and
- Establish any other procedures and requirements the Steering Committee determines necessary for the administration and implementation of the database.²

The bill requires the Steering Committee and the 9-1-1 program office to conduct public outreach concerning the existence of the database and post information about the database on their respective websites. The Steering Committee and the 9-1-1 program office also must coordinate ongoing public outreach with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the Department of Health.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-08-23

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² R.C. 128.29(A).

³ R.C. 128.29(C).