

HCS HB 635 -- AMBER ALERT SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Government by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, there are no meeting requirements for the Amber Alert System Oversight Committee. This bill requires the committee to meet at least annually to discuss potential improvements to the Amber Alert System. The bill allows any member of the committee to be a representative of the outdoor advertising industry or a representative of the public at large, except no more than one committee member may be a representative of the outdoor advertising industry and no more than one committee member may be a representative of the public at large.

The bill establishes Hailey's Law that requires the Amber Alert System to be integrated into the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System to expedite the reporting of child abductions.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that law enforcement agencies currently lack the proper tools to quickly issue an Amber alert and need to complete many repetitive steps to issue an Amber alert. Supporters say that the bill will streamline the process and help to prevent future tragedies.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison; Jeff Farfield; Phil Worland; Howard Cook; and Missouri Broadcasters Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.