

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1262

To implement or enhance consistent AMBER Alert plans throughout the country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2003

Mr. FOLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To implement or enhance consistent AMBER Alert plans throughout the country.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National AMBER
5 Alert Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMBER ALERT COORDINATOR.**

7 (a) COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall es-
8 tablish an AMBER Alert Coordinator position (referred
9 to in this Act as the “Coordinator”). The Coordinator
10 shall—

1 (1) establish guidelines to ensure AMBER Alert
2 plans are consistent throughout the United States,
3 including—

4 (A) criteria to determine if ample resources
5 are available to establish an AMBER Alert
6 plan;

7 (B) criteria regarding confirmation by a
8 law enforcement agency that an abduction of a
9 child has occurred which threatens the life or
10 physical well being of the child and warrants
11 issuing an alert;

12 (C) each State or a group of States, by
13 written agreement, establishes a central point of
14 command to share information and ensure qual-
15 ity control; and

16 (D) use of the name AMBER in identi-
17 fying the plan to avoid confusion; and

18 (2) develop a prototype of protocols for each
19 child recovery plan from initial contact through re-
20 unification with family, including—

21 (A) a public safety communications pro-
22 tocol;

23 (B) investigations protocol and investiga-
24 tion cooperation agreements;

25 (C) case management protocol;

- 1 (D) command center operations;
- 2 (E) reunification with family;
- 3 (F) prosecution coordination;
- 4 (G) aftercare for victims; and
- 5 (H) incident review, evaluation, and de-
- 6 briefing.

7 **SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EVALUATION.**

8 (a) TRAINING.—The Coordinator shall make avail-
9 able throughout the country to agencies and organizations
10 implementing an AMBER Alert plan, including law en-
11 forcement, broadcasters, chief executive officers, first re-
12 sponders, dispatchers, public safety communications, and
13 radio station personnel—

14 (1) training and educational programs which
15 are updated regularly to ensure compliance with new
16 tools, technologies, and resources; and

17 (2) informational material, including brochures,
18 videos, posters, and web sites to support and supple-
19 ment training and educational programs.

20 (b) EVALUATION.—The Coordinator shall make
21 available to any State or local agency or organization in-
22 volved with the AMBER plan program monitoring, annual
23 evaluation, and plan testing.

1 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY GROUP.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coordinator shall establish
3 an advisory group to assist agencies or organizations that
4 do not participate in the AMBER plan.

5 (b) PARTICIPANTS.—In selecting individuals to serve
6 on the advisory group, the Coordinator shall include rep-
7 resentation from different geographic areas of the country
8 that includes individuals from law enforcement, broad-
9 casters, chief executive officers, first responders, dis-
10 patchers, public safety communications, and radio station
11 personnel.

12 **SEC. 5. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS.**

13 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Coordinator shall estab-
14 lish a grant program to provide States with grants to im-
15 plement new technologies which improve AMBER Alert
16 communications.

17 (b) REPORT.—The Coordinator shall submit a report
18 to Congress not less than once every 3 years regarding
19 new technologies that may be used to assist in dissemi-
20 nating AMBER Alerts.

21 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

22 The Coordinator shall submit a report to Congress
23 annually regarding the activities of the Office and the ef-
24 fectiveness and status of each State that has established
25 AMBER plans.

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “State” means each of the 50
4 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
5 of Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying areas; and

6 (2) **OUTLYING AREA.**—The term “outlying
7 area” means the United States Virgin Islands,
8 Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of
9 the Northern Mariana Islands.

10 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated—

12 (1) \$25,000,000 to carry out training programs
13 under section 2(a) for each of fiscal years 2004
14 through 2009;

15 (2) \$50,000,000 to provide technology grants
16 under section 4(a) for each of fiscal years 2004
17 through 2009; and

18 (3) such sums as may be necessary to carry out
19 this Act other than sections 2(a) and 4(a) for each
20 of fiscal years 2004 through 2009.

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