

Act No. 32
Public Acts of 1989
Approved by the Governor
May 24, 1989
Filed with the Secretary of State
May 26, 1989

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
85TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1989**

Introduced by Reps. Martin, Perry Bullard, Stupak, Van Regenmorter, Muxlow, Gilmer, Van Singel,
Johnson and Gubow

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4097

AN ACT to establish a McGruff house/child watch program; to prescribe the powers and duties of the department of state police and certain other agencies and organizations; and to prescribe penalties.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 1. As used in this act:

(a) "McGruff/child watch house" means a house, designated by a sign bearing the standard McGruff house/child watch symbol, occupied by a responsible adult, where a child may seek help when he or she faces an emergency such as being bullied, followed, threatened, or hurt while walking or playing in the neighborhood.

(b) "Program", except as used in subdivision (c), means McGruff house/child watch program.

(c) "Standard McGruff house/child watch symbol" means the standard symbol to designate a McGruff/child watch house designed or adopted pursuant to section 2(1)(b), except that until the expiration of 2 years after the effective date of this act standard McGruff house/child watch symbol includes a symbol that before and on the effective date of this act was used by an existing neighborhood safe house program to designate a neighborhood safe house similar to a McGruff/child watch house within that program.

Sec. 2. (1) The department of state police, in cooperation with the Michigan sheriffs' association, the Michigan association of chiefs of police, the crime prevention association of Michigan, and the child watch association shall do all of the following:

(a) Develop guidelines for the establishment and operation of McGruff house/child watch programs.

(b) Design or adopt a standard symbol and sign to be used statewide by McGruff house/child watch programs to designate a McGruff house/child watch house. The sign shall be one that is not easily reproduced and is easily seen from a distance. The signs shall be numbered and made available at cost to local law enforcement agencies sponsoring or cooperating with a sponsor of a program.

(c) Develop or adopt a model application form for designation of a home as a McGruff/child watch house.

(d) Make information available to nonprofit organizations, school districts, business entities, and local law enforcement agencies concerning the program.

(e) Publicize the program in as many ways as is reasonably practical.

(f) Cooperate with local law enforcement agencies in conducting background checks on persons who apply to have their homes designated as McGruff/child watch houses.

(2) The department of state police may promulgate rules pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, to implement this act.

Sec. 3. (1) A local law enforcement agency, or a school district, nonprofit organization, or business entity in cooperation with a local law enforcement agency, may sponsor a program.

(2) A program sponsor shall supply a numbered sign bearing the standard McGruff house/child watch symbol to a person in the community who applies for designation of his or her home as a McGruff/child watch house, if the person agrees in writing to follow the terms of the program and if the person and any other adult residing in the person's home passes a background check conducted by a local law enforcement agency.

(3) A program sponsor shall keep a register of the McGruff/child watch houses within the program.

(4) A local law enforcement agency that sponsors a program or agrees to cooperate with a nonprofit organization, school district, or business entity that sponsors a program shall conduct a background check, including a criminal history check, on each person who applies to have his or her home designated as a McGruff/child watch house and on each adult residing in the person's home.

Sec. 4. (1) A person shall not display a sign bearing the standard McGruff house/child watch symbol so that the sign is visible from the outside of the person's house unless the person's home has been approved as a McGruff/child watch house by a program sponsor.

(2) A McGruff/child watch house sign is the property of the local law enforcement agency that sponsors or cooperates with the sponsor of the program that issued the sign. If the sponsor determines that a person's home no longer qualifies as a McGruff/child watch house, the person shall return the sign to the local law enforcement agency.

(3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved

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Governor.