



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**MISSING CHILD REPORTS**

House Bill 4366 with committee amendments  
First Analysis (4-8-87)

**RECEIVED**

Sponsor: Rep. Glenn Oxender  
Committee: Judiciary

**MAY 07 1987**

Mich. State Law Library

H.B. 4366 (4-8-87)

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

If birth certificate and school records of missing children bore notices that the child in question had been reported missing, any request for information would provide a vital clue in locating the child. While missing child reports are entered into the Law Enforcement Information Network, there is no requirement that identifying information and notice of a missing child report be forwarded to the state registrar and the last known school district for the child.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend Public Act 319 of 1968 to require a law enforcement agency receiving a report that a Michigan-born child was missing to notify the state registrar and provide certain identifying information on the child. If there was reason to believe that the child was enrolled in a Michigan school, the agency would have to also notify the child's last known school district. The notifications would be made if seven days had elapsed since receiving the report and it had not been canceled. If information entered into the law enforcement information network regarding a missing child was canceled, the law enforcement agency would inform the registrar and the school district.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 4367, which would amend the Public Health Code to require registrars to tag the birth certificates of missing children, and House Bill 4368, which would amend the School Code to require school districts to tag the records of missing children (MCL 28.258).

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

The House Fiscal Agency says that the bill would have no substantial fiscal implications for the Department of State Police, but that the proposed program would entail annual costs of about \$67,000 for two full-time-equated positions for the Department of Public Health (4-7-87).

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The vast majority of missing child reports are filed on runaways, and nearly all of the remainder are situations where a child is taken by a noncustodial parent. Eventually, a parent or the child may seek birth certificate or school records. Under the bill and its companion legislation, that request would alert authorities and provide a vital clue to locating the child. A similar recordkeeping requirement is part of Illinois' successful and highly regarded I-SEARCH missing children program, where it has been credited with enabling authorities to find a number of missing children within the past year or so.

***POSITIONS:***

The Department of State Police is reviewing the bill and does not have an official position at this time (4-7-87).