

# Legislative Analysis



## AMBER ALERTS FOR CERTAIN MISSING CHILDREN

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4517 as reported from committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Jerry Neyer**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 4518 (H-1) as reported from committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Angela Rigas**

**Committee: Families and Veterans**  
**Complete to 9-4-25**

### SUMMARY:

**House Bill 4518** would amend the Michigan Amber Alert Act, which requires the Department of State Police (MSP) to establish policies for the activation of the state AMBER Alert plan, which is used to disseminate information to Michigan radio and television stations when a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger of serious harm.<sup>1</sup> AMBER Alerts are also sent as wireless emergency alerts to mobile devices, sometimes in a targeted geographic area, by authorized government agencies.

The bill would add that those policies must require the activation of the AMBER Alert plan for a report of either of the following:

- A missing *child with special needs*.
- A report of a missing child MSP believes to be in danger after a law enforcement agency conducts a preliminary investigation.

*Child with special needs* would mean an individual who meets all of the following:

- The individual has been evaluated under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act or the state's administrative rules for special education.
- On the basis of that evaluation, the individual has been determined to have a qualifying impairment by an individualized education program team or judge, an individualized family service plan team or judge, or a health care professional.
- The individual needs services.
- The individual is not more than 26 years of age.<sup>2</sup>
- The individual has not graduated from high school.

House Bill 4518 may be known as the Rowan Act.

MCL 28.753

**House Bill 4517** would amend the Child Abduction Broadcast Act to allow radio and television stations to broadcast information concerning a report of a missing child received from MSP

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/services/alerts> and <https://amberalert.ojp.gov/about/faqs>

<sup>2</sup> "Not more than 26 years of age" presumably means "less than (or under) 26 years of age," rather than "less than (or under) 27 years of age."

under the Michigan Amber Alert Act. The applicable provisions now refer only to information concerning a child abduction.

The bill also would specifically authorize those entities to broadcast AMBER Alert information through social media.

Finally, the bill would change the title of the act to the Child Abduction and Missing Child Broadcast Act.

The bill cannot take effect unless House Bill 4518 is also enacted.

MCL 28.761, 28.762, and 28.765

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bills could have a nominal fiscal impact on the Department of State Police (MSP). The provisions of the bills that would require MSP to activate the state Amber Alert plan more frequently may result in increased costs that could likely be absorbed by existing appropriations. However, because the number of missing child reports cannot be predicted with certainty and the cost of activating the plan in response to a report is not known, an estimate of the fiscal impact on the state cannot be made.

The bills would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

#### **POSITIONS:**

The following entities indicated support for the bills:

- Disability Network Michigan (7-29-25)
- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (8-12-25)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best  
Fiscal Analyst: Aaron A. Meek

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.