

SUBJECT: Naming the statewide alert system for missing adults as the CLEAR Alert

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — White, Bowers, Goodwin, Harless, Hefner, E. Morales,
Patterson, Schaefer, Tinderholt

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Alison Steele, Cayley’s Calling; Rena Castro, Erin Rios Castro Foundation; Guilly Puente, Office of Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rebekah Foley, Helping Hands of the Verbal Abused; Seetha Kulandaisamy, Texas Council on Family Violence; Alex Lopez, Erin Rios Castro Foundation; Matthew Lovitt, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas; Thamara Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; and nine individuals)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Government Code ch. 411, subch. Q establishes an alert system for missing adults. The alert system, created by the 86th Legislature, defines an “adult” as a person who is 18 years of age or older but younger than 65 years of age. The statewide alert assists law enforcement in locating and rescuing adults who have been missing for less than 72 hours and who may be in imminent danger of injury or death, or whose disappearance may not have been voluntary, including cases of abduction or kidnapping.

DIGEST: HB 2677 would officially name the alert system for missing adults as the Coordinated Law Enforcement Adult Rescue (CLEAR) Alert.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 2677 would help standardize Texas' system of emergency alerts by naming the alert for missing adults as the "CLEAR Alert." The AMBER

Alert and Silver Alert help the public quickly identify whether a missing person is a child or a senior, respectively, and the CLEAR Alert would do the same for missing adults who could be victims of abduction or kidnapping or be at risk of immediate injury or death. The bill also would honor the victims of violence whose stories led to the CLEAR Alert legislation and whose names are symbolically referenced in the acronym: Cayley Mandadi, D'Lisa Kelley, Erin Castro, Ashanti Billie, and the Rest.

CRITICS
SAY:

No concerns identified.