

PUBLIC THREAT ALERT SYSTEM

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

House Bill 4061 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Bradley Slagh

Committee: Government Operations

Complete to 3-2-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4061 would amend the Public Threat Alert System Act to prohibit activation of the public threat alert system plan to transmit the announcement of a new law or executive order unless certain conditions were met.

Enacted in 2016, the Public Threat Alert System Act requires the Department of State Police (MSP) to maintain a public threat alert system plan to rapidly disseminate useful information to radio and television stations and to wireless devices through the wireless emergency alert system operated under federal law.

Definition of public threat

The act defines “public threat,” for purposes of the act, as a clear, present, persistent, ongoing, and random threat to public safety, such as an act of terrorism, an unresolved mass shooting, or an unresolved mass shooting spree.

The bill would change the definition of “public threat” to mean a clear, present, persistent, ongoing, and random threat to public safety that is likely to lead to an immediate or nearly immediate loss of life or property, such as:

- An act of terrorism.
- An unresolved mass shooting or mass shooting spree.
- A natural disaster, including a severe storm or flood.
- An industrial explosion.
- A train derailment.
- An announcement that an individual is missing and endangered.

Activation of the plan

The act provides that the public threat alert system plan must be activated only in accordance with policies established by MSP.

The bill would add that the plan must not be activated to transmit an announcement of a new law or executive order unless doing so is necessary to respond to an immediate or nearly immediate loss of life or property.

MCL 28.672 and 28.673

BACKGROUND:

As introduced, the bill is identical to House Bill 6100 of the 2019-20 legislative session, which was passed by the House of Representatives on October 13, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would not have a fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services indicated opposition to the bill.
(2-25-21)

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