

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 509 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, SANCHEZ, STRUZZI, D. WILLIAMS, ZIMMERMAN,
WEBSTER AND HILL-EVANS, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 24, 2004 (P.L.1270, No.153),
2 entitled "An act providing for the Pennsylvania Amber Alert
3 System; authorizing and directing the Pennsylvania State
4 Police to establish and maintain the Pennsylvania Amber Alert
5 System; assessing costs; and providing for immunity and
6 penalties," further providing for duties of Pennsylvania
7 State Police.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1.1 of the act of November 24, 2004
11 (P.L.1270, No.153), referred to as the Pennsylvania Amber Alert
12 System Law, is amended to read:

13 Section 1.1. Duties of Pennsylvania State Police.

14 (a) Protocols and procedures.--The Pennsylvania State Police
15 shall establish such protocols and procedures as are necessary
16 for the effective operation of each system and shall educate
17 and inform local law enforcement agencies and the public with
18 regard to the availability of each system.

19 (b) Particularly vulnerable children.--This subsection shall
20 apply to particularly vulnerable children. If a parent or family

1 member reports that a child of the parent or family member has
2 been abducted by a nonparent or nonfamily member, there shall be
3 a presumption, absent immediately available clear evidence to
4 the contrary, that the child is in imminent danger of serious
5 bodily injury or death and the Missing Endangered Person
6 Advisory System shall be immediately activated without
7 additional investigation prior to activation of the Pennsylvania
8 Amber Alert System. This provision shall be known as the "Nalani
9 Johnson Rule" to protect this Commonwealth's particularly
10 vulnerable children from harm.

11 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
12 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
13 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Family member." A grandparent, aunt, uncle or adult sibling
15 of a particularly vulnerable child.

16 "Particularly vulnerable child." A child under 13 years of
17 age.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.