

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
2016 Bill/Resolution



Committee: Public Safety

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Bill No.: Senate #?

Delegation: ALA NM Girls State 2016

Status: Passed committee; not considered by Senate (lack of time)

Title of Bill: Multi-Agency Missing Child Emergency Alert Jurisdictional Change

1 **Section I. Body:** On May 2nd a little girl was kidnapped on her way home from the bus
2 stop after school near Fruitland, New Mexico. Due to lack of communication between
3 agencies, the Amber alert was not issued until 2:30 AM on May 3rd. With the help of
4 outside law enforcement. Navajo nation police finally found this child's dead body on
5 May 3rd at 11 AM near Shiprock, New Mexico, 15 miles away from her home and they
6 arrested the suspect. The lack of communication resulted in crucial time wasted and a
7 life lost. In situations where children go missing, all agencies should be able to work
8 together WITHOUT conflict of jurisdiction in a quick manner to avoid further situations
9 like this one and keep all children safe and out of imminent danger.

10 **Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State 2016**

11 **Section II. Definitions:** Amber Alert: an emergency response system that disseminates
12 information about a missing person (usually a child), by media broadcasting or
13 electronic roadway signs. Conflict: a serious disagreement or argument, typically a
14 protracted one jurisdiction. The power to make legal decisions and judgments multiple
15 agencies. Navajo Nation police, county, state, and federal law enforcement (i.e. FBI,
16 New Mexico State Police, San Juan County Sheriff's Department)

17 **Section III. Penalty:** law enforcement agencies do not have to wait on the other one's
18 approval to take action. An Amber Alert will be issued immediately, without having to
19 wait for all of the agency's approvals, for this wastes crucial time. There should be all
20 hands on deck in these instances. A written plan that states how different agencies
21 need to work all agencies unify when a child goes missing. Thus search missions and
22 Amber Alerts will no longer be delayed.

23 **Section IV. Repeal:** all laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the
24 constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are
25 hereby repealed.

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27 **Section V. Effective Date:** the provisions of this act shall be effective on and after
28 August 1st, 2016.