The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 227 Original | 2026 Regular Session | Harris

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), in cooperation with the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS), to institute a pre-Spectrum Alert action plan to enhance the safety and well-being of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through immediate and effective community and emergency response.

Proposed law requires the plan to, at a minimum, consist of one or more programs to:

(1) Develop a training program and alert system for missing children with ASD which is compatible with existing alert systems.

(2) Establish policies and procedures for responding to a reported missing child emergency when the child has ASD, with the policies and procedures, at a minimum, providing for all of the following:

(a) Immediate and widespread dissemination of critical information when a child with ASD is reported missing.

(b) Enhancement of emergency response teams' competence by informing them of the unique behaviors and needs of children with ASD.

(c) Measures to increase public awareness and understanding of the risks associated with autism-related elopement, to foster community support for children with ASD.

(3) Require a law enforcement agency, at a minimum, to do all of the following upon receiving a missing child with ASD report:

(a) Contact media outlets in the affected area or inform all on-duty law enforcement officers of the reported missing child with ASD.

(b) Communicate the report to all other law enforcement agencies in the parishes surrounding the parish in which the report was filed.

Proposed law authorizes the DPS&C secretary and the DCFS secretary to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the APA to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the implementation of proposed law is subject to available funding.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 40:2530.11)