

COMMITTEE FOR THE STATEWIDE ALERT SYSTEM

Current Contact – Sonia Serena, Public Safety Dispatcher 5, Records, Communications and Compliance Division, Department of Public Safety; and Chair of the Committee

Website – <https://amberalert.nv.gov/>

Agendas and Meetings – https://amberalert.nv.gov/Meetings/AMBER_Alert_Meeting/

NEVADA REVISED STATUTES (NRS) 432.300 THROUGH 432.380

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ([NRS 432.350](#))

The Committee consists of 15 members as follows:

- Five members appointed by the governor who represent local law enforcement agencies;
- Five members appointed by the governor who represent state law enforcement agencies;
- One representative of Nevada’s Emergency Alert System, appointed by the Nevada Broadcasters Association or its successor;
- One representative of the Nevada Broadcasters Association or its successor, appointed by that Association;
- One representative of Nevada’s Department of Transportation (NDOT), appointed by the Director of NDOT;
- The advocate for missing or exploited children, also known as the children’s advocate, appointed pursuant to [NRS 432.157](#); and
- One representative of the public at large, appointed by the governor from among the names of nominees provided to the governor pursuant to subsection 5 of [NRS 432.350](#).

The governor is required to select a chair and vice chair of the Committee.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE ([NRS 432.360](#))

The Committee shall, in consultation with the attorney general:

- Oversee the Statewide Alert System for the Safe Return of Abducted Children;
- Set forth the components of the System;
- Supervise and evaluate any training associated with the System;
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the activations of the System to determine whether such activations complied with relevant statutes; and
- Conduct periodic tests of the System.

The Committee may:

- Dedicate the System to one or more persons;
- Establish a name for the System that is in addition to the definition set forth in statute; and

- Apply for and accept grants and other funds to implement the System. Any money received must be deposited in the Account for the Statewide Alert System for the Safe Return of Abducted Children.

The Committee shall administer the Account ([NRS 432.335](#)).

OPERATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- The children’s advocate, Office of Advocate for Missing or Exploited Children, Office of the Attorney General, shall administer the System ([NRS 432.340](#)).
- Agencies and broadcasters that choose to participate in the System must comply with statutory provisions and requirements prescribed by the Committee ([NRS 432.340](#)).
- A law enforcement agency that chooses to participate must adopt a written policy consistent with the statutory provisions and submit a copy to the children’s advocate ([NRS 432.340](#)).
- Members of the Committee serve without salary or compensation, except that, while engaged in the business of the Committee, each member who is not an officer or employee of the state may receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally, to the extent that money is available in the Account for that purpose ([NRS 432.350](#)).
- A law enforcement agency is not required to obtain prior consent from the Committee before activating the System, but the Committee may review an activation after it is complete ([NRS 432.370](#)).
- Broadcasters and certain other persons maintaining websites for the System are immune from civil liability based upon the information made available to assist with the safe return of the child ([NRS 432.380](#)).

BACKGROUND

LEGISLATION

2003—[Assembly Bill 322](#) (Chapter 41, *Statutes of Nevada*), sponsored by Assemblyman Perkins and a bipartisan group of 40 other Assembly members. The bill established the Committee as part of a larger bill proposing to implement an “Amber Alert” system in Nevada. According to minutes of the committees that considered AB 322, one of the key components was the creation of a committee to review any Amber Alert called, including a debriefing to ensure the criteria for the alert were met and to identify any changes that need to be made to the system.

2007—[Assembly Bill 344](#) (Chapter 143, *Statutes of Nevada*), sponsored by Assemblyman Ocegüera, increased from 12 to 15 the number of members of the Committee and provided specific requirements for the membership and appointment of the additional members.

2015—[Assembly Bill 424](#) (Chapter 107, *Statutes of Nevada*), sponsored by the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services (on behalf of the Sunset Subcommittee), created the Account for the Statewide Alert System for the Safe Return of Abducted Children in the State General Fund and required the Committee to administer the Account. The bill set forth that the members of the Committee who are not representatives of an agency in the Executive Branch of the state government may receive reimbursements to the extent that money is available in the Account. The bill also authorized the Committee to apply for gifts, grants, and donations, which must be deposited into the Account.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

No legislative histories of AB 322, AB 344, or AB 424 have been compiled.

REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE

There is no requirement for the Committee to submit a report to the Legislature.

REVIEW BY THE SUNSET SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

The Sunset Subcommittee reviewed the Committee for the Statewide Alert System on [April 8, 2014](#). On [May 6, 2014](#), the Subcommittee voted to recommend continuation with statutory changes as follows:

- Authorize the Committee to apply for grants;
- Establish an account in the General Fund to receive gifts, grants, and donations and to expend the funds from the account for its purposes; and
- Authorize reimbursement to non-agency representatives for expenses related to service to the Committee, if funds are available.