

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 626 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/1/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1656

By: Representative Gonzales

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS  
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS  
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION SYSTEM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1301 is amended to read as follows:  
27-16-1301. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "~~Arkansas~~  
Emergency Contact Information System Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1302 is amended to read as follows:  
27-16-1302. Purpose.

The purpose of this subchapter is to create ~~the Arkansas Emergency~~  
~~Contact Information System~~ an emergency contact information system to assist  
law enforcement in notification of next of kin or other designated emergency  
contact of an eligible participant in times of emergency.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1303 and § 27-16-1304 are amended to  
read as follows:

27-16-1303. System development.

The Department of Arkansas State Police in conjunction with other  
entities, including without limitation the Department of Finance and



Administration may establish ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~ an emergency contact information system.

27-16-1304. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter "emergency":

(1) Means ~~an unforeseen~~ a circumstance in which:

(A) ~~A victim person:~~

~~(i) sustains~~ Sustains injuries that render him or her unable to independently communicate with emergency contacts; or

~~(ii) Exhibits a symptom that renders him or her unable to independently communicate with emergency contacts, including without limitation:~~

(a) Memory loss;

(b) Loss of ability to understand or express speech;

(c) Disorientation; or

(d) Confusion and agitation;

(B) Contact information for next of kin or other designated emergency contact is not otherwise available; and

(C) Immediate communication with a next of kin or other designated emergency contact is necessary to support the provision of notification by law enforcement; and

(2) Includes without limitation:

(A) A motor vehicle accident;

(B) An accident involving another mode of transportation;

(C) A natural disaster; or

(D) Being a victim of a criminal act.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1305(a), concerning the use of information, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Information in ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~ an emergency contact information system shall be accessible only to law enforcement for emergency notification purposes or ~~pursuant to~~ by a court order and shall not be used in a criminal investigation or for any other purpose.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1306 is amended to read as follows:  
27-16-1306. Authority to promulgate rules.

The Department of Arkansas State Police, the Department of Finance and Administration, and any other entity that establishes an emergency contact information system ~~is authorized to~~ may promulgate rules to implement and administer the purpose and intent of this subchapter.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1307 is repealed.

~~27-16-1307. Implementation date.~~

~~Implementation of the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System may begin after funding has been obtained.~~

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1308(a), concerning voluntary participation, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Participation in ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~ an emergency contact information system is voluntary.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 27-16-1309(a), concerning the responsibility for accuracy of information, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each participant has the exclusive responsibility for:

(1) Initiating, entering, modifying, and deleting emergency contact records in ~~the Arkansas Emergency Contact Information System~~ an emergency contact information system; and

(2) The accuracy and completeness of all information submitted.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January 29, 2018.

*/s/Gonzales*

**APPROVED: 03/24/2017**