

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/14/17 H3/23/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1897

By: Representative Baltz

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION TO OFFER TO THEIR STUDENTS A PANIC
BUTTON ALERT SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO OFFER TO THEIR
STUDENTS A PANIC BUTTON ALERT SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-61-139. Panic button alert systems.

(a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, a state-supported institution of higher education may offer to its students, employees, and other personnel a panic button alert system that:

(1) Connects the user in real time with designated individuals, with the ability of contacting a live 911 operator;

(2)(A) Directly integrates into the existing statewide Smart911 system.

(B) The Smart911 system shall provide a way for a state-supported institution of higher education to geofence the campus and provide the GPS location to assist emergency responders by automatically displaying during a 911 call;

(3) Is available for use on and off campus as a smartphone application and has a mechanism for panic notifications to be triggered by



non-smartphone wireless callers and landline callers or automatic alert features in the event the user is unable to respond; and

(4) Has geotracking capability that can determine the location and movements of the person who engaged the *panic button alert* system.

(b) A state-supported institution of higher education may provide information to its students, employees, and other personnel to educate the students, employees, and other personnel on:

(1) The use of the *panic button alert* system; and

(2) How and where to obtain the *panic button alert* system.

/s/Baltz

APPROVED: BECAME LAW ON 04/07/2017 WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.