

Proposed Amendments to House Bill 1535

Feather Alert System

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION OF A FEATHER ALERT

Subsection 2 of Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

A law enforcement agency may request the Bureau of Criminal Investigation or the Highway Patrol to activate a Feather Alert notice if the agency determines that all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The missing person is an Indigenous person.
- b. The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized available local, tribal, and state resources.
- c. The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained, suspicious, or dangerous circumstances.
- d. The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in imminent danger due to factors such as age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, or the possibility of being in the company of a dangerous person.
- e. There is sufficient descriptive information available regarding the missing person, the suspect, or a related vehicle to assist in recovery efforts.
- f. The law enforcement agency confirms the case involves a suspected abduction, or the missing individual is believed to be in grave danger of serious bodily harm or death.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT

Subsection 4 of Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

The Indian Affairs Commission shall serve as the primary liaison between tribal, state, and federal agencies regarding the Feather Alert notice system and assist with public education, outreach, and advocacy efforts. The commission shall receive an annual report from the Highway Patrol and Bureau of Criminal Investigation on the effectiveness and implementation of the system and present findings at the annual listening session with tribal leaders.

SECTION 3. TECHNICAL REVISIONS FOR AGENCY TERMINOLOGY

Throughout the bill, the following updates shall be made for consistency with SB 2098 and current North Dakota emergency alert procedures:

- Replace "**superintendent**" with "**Highway Patrol**" to allow for efficient delegation of authority.
- Clarify that the **Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)**, in coordination with the **North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP)** and **North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES)**, will handle activation logistics and dissemination of alerts.