



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 673.

This bill will establish the Ebony Alert system to aid in the location of missing Black youth, including young women and girls, who are reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.

I thank the Legislature for highlighting this important issue, addressing well-documented disproportionality in the number of children of color who go missing every year.

While I am signing this bill, my Administration has broader concerns that were clearly expressed to the author throughout the process. The criteria in this bill are expansive and do not align with the criteria in existing alerts such as the Amber Alert, Endangered Missing Advisory, Feather Alert and Silver Alert.

Our emergency alert system is dependent on people not being fatigued by it and thus ignoring it. Our challenge is to achieve balance between the imperative to notify the public quickly in cases of missing persons or dangerous situations, but to not desensitize that same public by sending too many notifications.

To work towards this balance, I have directed the California Highway Patrol and the Office of Emergency Services to propose reforms through the budget to ensure consistency for all of California's alert programs. I look forward to working with the Legislature to accomplish this work.



Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.