

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REDRAFT

1/15/25

Double underlining  
denotes changes from  
prior draft

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0449.01 Michael Dohr x4347

HOUSE BILL

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Velasco,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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**BILL TOPIC:** Inclusive Emergency Alerts  
**DEADLINES:** Finalize by: 2/5/2025 File by: 2/7/2025

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING PROVIDING INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires an emergency alert sent by the state or a county, municipality, or alerting authority to be sent in a minority language if:

- The county has at least 2,000 citizens who are 18 years of age or older and who speak English less than very well, as defined by the United States bureau of the census American community survey or comparable census data, and who speak a shared minority language at home;
- At least 2.5% of citizens in the county who are 18 years of

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

age or older speak English less than very well, as defined by the United States bureau of the census American community survey or comparable census data, and who speak a shared minority language at home; or

- A county has a city within its borders with at least 2.5% in the city who are 18 years of age or older who speak English less than very well, as defined by the United States bureau of the census American community survey or comparable census data, and who speak a shared minority language at home.

The state, counties, municipalities, and alerting authorities are encouraged to use available technology to issue emergency alerts in as many languages as possible in the same method as an English alert.

The bill requires alerts to be accessible to individuals with disabilities by ensuring the alerts are available in:

- American sign language;
- English voice and text;
- A manner that is compatible with accessible technology software, such as braille devices and screen readers; and
- Plain language text.

Alerts must comply with the bill by January 1, 2026. The bill directs the 911 services enterprise to distribute grants to local alerting authorities to implement language and accessibility services for emergency alerts.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-432 as  
3 follows:

4 **24-33.5-432. Emergency alerts - definition.** (1) WHEN THE STATE  
5 OR A COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, OR ALERTING AUTHORITY ISSUES AN  
6 EMERGENCY ALERT, IN ADDITION TO BEING IN ENGLISH, THE ALERT MUST  
7 ALSO BE ISSUED IN A MINORITY LANGUAGE, IN THE SAME METHOD AND  
8 SYSTEM AS THE ENGLISH ALERT, IF:

9 (a) A COUNTY HAS AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND CITIZENS WHO ARE  
10 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO SPEAK ENGLISH LESS THAN  
11 VERY WELL, AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY OR COMPARABLE CENSUS DATA, AND  
2 WHO SPEAK A SHARED MINORITY LANGUAGE AT HOME;

3 (b) AT LEAST TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF CITIZENS IN A  
4 COUNTY WHO ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO SPEAK  
5 ENGLISH LESS THAN VERY WELL, AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES  
6 BUREAU OF THE CENSUS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY OR COMPARABLE  
7 CENSUS DATA, AND WHO SPEAK A SHARED MINORITY LANGUAGE AT HOME;  
8 OR

9 (c) A COUNTY HAS A CITY THAT IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY WITHIN ITS  
10 BORDERS WITH AT LEAST TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT IN THE CITY WHO  
11 ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO SPEAK ENGLISH LESS  
12 THAN VERY WELL, AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF THE  
13 CENSUS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY OR COMPARABLE CENSUS DATA,  
14 AND WHO SPEAK A SHARED MINORITY LANGUAGE AT HOME.

15 (2) IN ADDITION TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN  
16 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE, COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES,  
17 AND ALERTING AUTHORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE AVAILABLE  
18 TECHNOLOGY TO ISSUE EMERGENCY ALERTS IN AS MANY LANGUAGES AS  
19 POSSIBLE IN THE SAME METHOD AS AN ENGLISH ALERT.

20 (3) WHEN THE STATE OR A COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, OR ALERTING  
21 AUTHORITY ISSUES AN EMERGENCY ALERT, THE ALERT MUST BE  
22 ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY, AS DEFINED IN THE  
23 FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
24 12101, ET SEQ. THE ALERT MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE IN:

25 (a) AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE;

26 (b) ENGLISH VOICE AND TEXT;

27 (c) A MANNER THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH ACCESSIBLE

1 TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE, SUCH AS BRAILLE DEVICES AND SCREEN  
2 READERS; AND

3 (d) PLAIN LANGUAGE TEXT.

4 (4) THE STATE MAY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES IN  
5 IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.

6 (5) THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE CREATED IN SECTION 29-11-108  
7 SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO LOCAL ALERTING AUTHORITIES TO  
8 IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY  
9 ALERTS. THE ENTERPRISE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE TOTAL AMOUNT  
10 OF THE GRANTS AND THE MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS.

11 (6) EMERGENCY ALERTS MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
12 SECTION BY JANUARY 1, 2026.

13 (7) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "EMERGENCY ALERT" MEANS  
14 A WARNING SENT BY THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OR ALERTING  
15 AUTHORITIES THAT INFORMS PEOPLE OF A DANGEROUS OR CRITICAL  
16 SITUATION THAT COULD AFFECT THEM AND THAT CAN BE SENT VIA PHONE,  
17 TEXT MESSAGE, OVER PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS, OR THROUGH SPECIAL  
18 EMERGENCY ALERT APPLICATIONS AND SOFTWARE.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-108, **add**  
20 (5)(b)(V.5) as follows:

21 **29-11-108. 911 services enterprise - creation - powers and**  
22 **duties - cash fund - legislative declaration.** (5) The enterprise's primary  
23 powers and duties are to:

24 (b) Distribute funding to governing bodies, PSAPs, statewide 911  
25 organizations, or third parties for the benefit of governing bodies or  
26 PSAPs for purposes that are pre-approved by the board of directors of the  
27 enterprise and are consistent with applicable statutes, regulations,

1 ordinances, policies, and procedures. The purposes may include:

2 (V.5) AWARDING GRANTS TO LOCAL ALERTING AUTHORITIES TO  
3 IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY  
4 ALERTS;

5 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
8 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
9 institutions.