

1 AN ACT relating to severe weather emergency alerts.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 39A IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) The Division of Emergency Management, in cooperation with the Department of
6 Kentucky State Police, the Transportation Cabinet, the Kentucky Broadcasters
7 Association, and the Kentucky Press Association, shall operate a system to notify
8 the public when severe weather presents an imminent threat to the safety of the
9 public. The system shall be known as the Kentucky Severe Weather Alert System.

10 (2) The system shall utilize existing resources, including but not limited to electronic
11 highway signs, the emergency broadcast system, law enforcement
12 communications systems, and local, regional, and statewide media providers.

13 (3) The division shall only issue a public alert using the Kentucky Severe Weather
14 Alert System when, in consultation with the law enforcement agency in the
15 jurisdiction in which the severe weather is forecasted to occur, it has determined:

16 (a) That the severe weather presents an imminent threat to the safety of
17 humans, animals, or infrastructure in the affected area;

18 (b) That public notification is the most appropriate method of notifying the
19 public of the severe weather threat;

20 (c) The geographic area in which the notification shall be made; and

21 (d) That a severe weather alert has not already been made by the National
22 Weather Service or any other federal alerting authority for that geographic
23 area for the same severe weather threat.

24 (4) To initiate the public notification using the Kentucky Severe Weather Alert
25 System, the division shall alert the public and private agencies and organizations
26 making the notification and shall provide those agencies and organizations with
27 the information that the division deems necessary.

1 (5) All law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the
2 division in the provision and dissemination of information regarding any severe
3 weather.