

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.