



S.B. 249

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

**Sens. Faber, Mumper, Schuler, Mason, Seitz, Buehrer, Stivers, Sawyer,
Gardner**

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a next of kin database to be available to law enforcement for purposes of contacting the specified persons in the event that a motor vehicle registrant or the holder of a driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or identification card is involved in a serious motor vehicle accident or emergency situation.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a database of the next of kin of persons who are issued motor vehicle certificates of registration, driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, temporary instruction permits, and state identification cards. Information in this database must be accessible only to employees of the Bureau, deputy registrars, and to law enforcement agencies. (R.C. 4501.81(A).)

When a person applies for a motor vehicle registration, driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or identification card, the person must be afforded the opportunity to list the name, address, telephone number, and relationship to the individual of at least one contact person whom the individual wishes to be contacted if the individual is involved in a motor vehicle accident or emergency situation and the individual is killed or seriously injured or rendered unconscious and is unable to communicate with the contact person. The contact person need not be the next of kin of the applicant. (R.C. 4501.81(B).)

The Bureau, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, must adopt rules to implement the bill. These rules must address the following: (1) the methods whereby a person who has submitted the name of a contact person for inclusion in the database may make changes to the entry, (2) the format of the information if it is included on the person's license, permit, or identification card

(in which case the information must be in a form readable only by employees of the Bureau, a deputy registrar, or a law enforcement agency), and (3) any other aspect of the database or its operation that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles determines is necessary in order to implement the bill. (R.C. 4501.81(C).) The Bureau must adopt these rules, and the database must be operational, within 90 days after the bill's effective date (Section 2).

In the event of a motor vehicle accident or emergency situation in which a person is killed or seriously injured or rendered unconscious and is unable to communicate with the contact person specified in the database, a law enforcement officer must make a good faith effort to notify the contact person of the situation, but neither the officer nor the law enforcement agency that employs the officer incurs any liability if the officer is unable to make contact with the contact person (R.C. 4501.81(D)).

The bill specifies that it must be known as the "Money-Burge Act" (Section 3) (see **COMMENT**).

COMMENT

The act is named in memory of David Money and Steve Burge, both of whom were killed in automobile accidents.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	11-08-07

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