



## Legislative Council Staff

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# Fiscal Note

**Drafting Number:** LLS 23-0546  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Velasco  
Sen. Will

**Date:** March 22, 2023  
**Bill Status:** House State Affairs  
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**Bill Topic:** **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires evacuation alerts and other public safety alerts sent by a county or municipality to be sent in alternate languages, where necessary, beginning January 1, 2026, and instructs the Department of Public Safety to commission a study. The bill increases state expenditures in FY 2023-24 and increases local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$200,000 to the Department of Public Safety.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 23-1237**

		Budget Year FY 2023-24	Out Year FY 2024-25
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	General Fund	\$200,000	-
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>Other Budget Impacts</b>	General Fund Reserve	\$30,000	-

## Summary of Legislation

The bill instructs the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to conduct a study to assess which counties, municipalities, sheriff's offices, fire districts, and local 911 agencies will need to implement emergency alerts in a minority language. This includes what programming and staffing needs are required to provide live translation and interpretation of 911 calls. The division will present the study during its 2024 SMART Act hearing.

The bill requires evacuation alerts and other public safety alerts sent by a county or municipality to be sent via a reverse 911 text beginning January 1, 2026, unless the study specifies an earlier date. The alerts must be in English as well as a minority language if at least 2,000 residents or 2.5 percent of residents aged 18 or older speak English less than "very well," as measured by U.S. Census Bureau survey data.

## State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of Public Safety by \$200,000 in FY 2023-24, paid from the General Fund, to hire a contractor to perform the study. The study will require travel across the state and consultation with over 400 local entities that provide emergency alerts in multiple ways and through multiple methods.

## Local Government

The bill increases workload in FY 2023-24 for any local government that collaborates with the study. This workload is expected to be minimal.

Beginning in FY 2025-26, the bill increases workload and expenditures for counties, municipalities, sheriff's offices, fire districts, and local 911 agencies in an estimated 31 counties that meet the bill's requirements for one or more minority languages. These costs may include contracting with on-call interpretation and translation services, potential staffing needs to maintain multilingual services, and training costs. Expenditures will vary depending on the needs and existing systems of each jurisdiction and the results of the study.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 to the Department of Public Safety.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Local Affairs

Information Technology  
Public Safety

Judicial