

HB437 INTRODUCED



1 HB437

2 PSSVCEG-1

3 By Representatives Faulkner, Ledbetter, Stadthagen, Brown,

4 Marques, Smith, Rehm, Treadaway, Ellis, Kirkland, Brinyark,

5 Stringer, Woods, Hall, Lamb, Estes, Moore (P), Hulsey,

6 Bedsole, Lovvorn, Jackson, McCampbell, Lawrence, Almond, Wood

7 (D), Chestnut, Collins, Garrett, Tillman, Shaw, DuBose,

8 Mooney, Hill, Butler, Shaver, Lomax, Rigsby, Sellers, Paschal,

9 Lipscomb, Yarbrough, Clouse, Reynolds, Lee, Crawford, Forte,

10 Blackshear, Colvin, Paramore, Carns, Standridge, Robbins,

11 Robertson, Bolton, Hendrix, Starnes, Stubbs, Fincher,

12 Easterbrook, Travis, Lands, Gray, Harrison, Gidley, Ingram,

13 Underwood

14 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security

15 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish a system under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the Mobile and Baldwin County Emergency Management Agencies to warn individuals of a shark attack or unusual shark activity in waters near a beach or shoreline by providing for alerts to be sent to mobile cellular devices in localized areas and to first responders on duty.

This bill would further provide for the assistance of other state departments and agencies and local first responder organizations in the development and operation of the shark alert system.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public safety; to establish a shark alert system for Baldwin and Mobile Counties; to provide for the development, implementation, and operation of the alert system by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with assistance of other agencies of the state and political subdivisions.



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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

30 Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be
31 cited as the LuLu Gribbin Shark Alert System Act.

32 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following
33 terms have the following meanings:

34 (1) ALERT SYSTEM. The shark alert system.

35 (2) BEACHES AND COASTAL AREAS. Beaches and shorelines
36 that face the Gulf of America or Pelican Bay.

37 (3) COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of Conservation and
38 Natural Resources.

39 (4) DEPARTMENT. The Department of Conservation and
40 Natural Resources.

41 (5) FIRST RESPONDER. Lifeguards, rescue squad members,
42 emergency medical service providers, public safety
43 telecommunicators, municipal, county, and state law
44 enforcement officers, including enforcement officers of the
45 department, and any other emergency management provider who
46 responds to an emergency situation.

47 (6) WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT. A text message, short
48 message service, or other data application broadcast from a
49 cell tower to all compatible mobile wireless or phone devices
50 that are turned on in a geographic area.

51 (c) (1) The shark alert system is established to serve
52 the beaches and coastal areas in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

53 (2) The Department of Conservation and Natural
54 Resources shall adopt rules to implement and administer this
55 section, including establishing operating protocols for
56 activating the alert system.



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57 (3) In the development and implementation of the alert
58 system, the commissioner shall receive upon request the full
59 cooperation, including assistance, expertise, and information,
60 of other departments and agencies of this state or political
61 subdivisions thereof, including the Alabama Emergency
62 Management Agency, local emergency management organizations,
63 the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, the Office of
64 Emergency Medical Services of the Alabama Department of Public
65 Health, the Alabama Gulf Emergency Medical Services System,
66 and all first responder organizations that employ or use
67 emergency medical services personnel licensed under Chapter
68 18, Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975, the Offices of Sheriff of
69 Baldwin and Mobile Counties, and the municipalities with
70 jurisdiction over beaches and coastal areas, including the
71 police and other municipal departments that manage public
72 beaches, parks, and piers.

73 (4) The commissioner may enter into agreements with any
74 department or agency of this state or any political
75 subdivision thereof, including those listed in subdivision
76 (3), to provide necessary resources and support for the
77 implementation and operation of the alert system.

78 (d) The alert system shall be activated upon the
79 occurrence of any the following events:

80 (1) When the department receives a confirmed report of
81 an unprovoked shark attacking an individual.

82 (2) When the department receives a credible report with
83 sufficient descriptive information, as defined by department
84 rule, that shark activity may pose an imminent danger to



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85 individuals at or near the beaches and coastal areas.

86 (3) Any other criteria adopted by rule of the
87 department when the department determines that an alert would
88 be in the best interest of the public and to avoid false
89 alarm.

90 (e) No private cause of action may be maintained for
91 failure to activate the shark alert system.

92 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
93 1, 2025.