

## House Resolution 1347

By: Representatives Heckstall of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Post 3, Holmes of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, Sinkfield of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Ashe of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Post 2, Fludd of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Post 4, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging cell phone service companies and Internet service providers to become active  
2 participants in Georgia's Amber Alert Program by joining in a voluntary partnership with  
3 law enforcement and emergency management, to be known as L.O.C.A. (Leave our Children  
4 Alone) Alert, for the purpose of issuing urgent bulletins in possible child abduction cases;  
5 and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's Amber Alert Program is the voluntary program entered into by the  
7 Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, the Georgia  
8 Association of Broadcasters, and certain broadcasters licensed to serve in the State of  
9 Georgia; which program provides that if the Georgia Bureau of Investigation verifies that a  
10 child has been abducted and is in danger, an alert containing known details of the abduction  
11 is transmitted to Georgia Emergency Management Agency, which is then transmitted by  
12 Georgia Emergency Management Agency to broadcasters in Georgia; and those broadcasters  
13 participating in the program then broadcast or otherwise disseminate the alert to listeners,  
14 viewers, or subscribers for a period of four hours; and

15 WHEREAS, it is an innovative early alert system to help find missing or abducted children  
16 that can be activated only by local law enforcement agencies through a request to the Georgia  
17 Bureau of Investigation; and

18 WHEREAS, the statistics show that when abducted a child's greatest enemy is time; and

19 WHEREAS, the child abduction alert program is an effective time-critical response to  
20 kidnappers who can disappear with children at the rate of a mile per minute; and

21 WHEREAS, progress in the effort to recover kidnapped children depends on increasing  
22 public awareness and involvement, and great ideas like Levi's Call and the Amber Alert  
23 Program should be enthusiastically embraced, supported, and promoted when possible; and

1 WHEREAS, cell phone service companies and Internet service providers can help to increase  
2 the effectiveness of the child abduction alert program by increasing the number of people  
3 involved in searching for an abducted child; and

4 WHEREAS, cell phone service companies and Internet service providers can become  
5 beneficial partners in the child abduction alert network through L.O.C.A. Alert by utilizing  
6 their assets to rapidly disseminate information regarding abducted and missing children to  
7 the millions of cell phone users and Internet service subscribers in this state who are their  
8 respective customers; and

9 WHEREAS, L.O.C.A. Alert will help to save lives and will send a powerful message to  
10 kidnappers and other predators of children that we are a united community that cares about  
11 and protects our children.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
13 this body encourages cell phone service companies and Internet service providers to join in  
14 a voluntary network of child abduction alert participants by cooperating with law  
15 enforcement agencies in this state in developing and implementing a program to be known  
16 as L.O.C.A. Alert which will deliver vital descriptive information to their respective users  
17 and subscribers about a missing child and an abductor to speed the safe recovery of every  
18 abducted and missing child in this state.