

1 authority to operate, test, or maintain an outdoor warning siren;
2 and

3 2. "Outdoor warning siren" means any audible emergency warning
4 device operated or maintained by a governmental entity or emergency
5 management agency for the purpose of alerting the public to
6 emergency conditions, including but not limited to, tornadoes,
7 severe weather, hazardous material releases, or civil emergencies.

8 B. It shall be unlawful for any person to:

9 1. Willfully or knowingly activate, attempt to activate, or
10 cause to be activated an outdoor warning siren without proper
11 authorization; and

12 2. Tamper with, alter, damage, disable, or interfere with any
13 component of an outdoor warning siren system, including but not
14 limited to wiring, activation controls, or communication systems,
15 with the intent to cause unauthorized activation or to impair the
16 system's function.

17 C. Any person convicted of violating this section shall be
18 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed One
19 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), imprisonment in the county jail for a
20 term not to exceed one (1) year, or by both such fine and
21 imprisonment.

22 D. If the unauthorized activation causes a false emergency
23 response or public panic, the offense shall be classified as a
24 felony, punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars

1 (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of
2 Corrections for a term not to exceed five (5) years, or by both such
3 fine and imprisonment.

4 E. This section shall not apply to:

5 1. Employees, agents, or contractors of a governmental entity
6 or emergency management authority within the scope of his or her
7 official duties; or

8 2. Any person conducting routine testing or maintenance of
9 outdoor warning sirens under the supervision or written authority of
10 the jurisdiction responsible for the system.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY
14 OVERSIGHT, dated 02/26/2026 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

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