

August 10, 2015

## COMMITTEE UPDATE

TO:

Members of the House and Senate Committees on Education and Distinguished Chairs, Senator Jane English and Representative Bruce Cozart

FROM:

Rave Mobile Safety - Ted Mullenix, Mullenix & Associates LLC

Thank you for the opportunity to update you. We are excited to provide a report on the new Panic Button for Arkansas K12 schools, as well as a brief update on our statewide Smart 911 system. With great enthusiasm, we look forward to seeing the Panic Button implemented in all K12 schools across our state. A great deal of work is underway to make this effort become a reality and operational for this coming school year.

Rave Mobile Safety implemented Smart 911, an enhanced 911 system, statewide in Arkansas several years ago. Now with the implementation of the school Panic Button, Rave is making a new commitment to Arkansas. As part of that commitment, we are pleased to announce Rave Mobile Safety now has a full-time employee in the state, J. P. French. Mr. French has an extensive background in law enforcement and brings a wealth of experience to this job. He is already working every day... meeting with school administrators on the Panic Button implementation for all school campuses across Arkansas. He is also working with state and local enforcement agencies and local 911 centers (PSAPs). Rave Mobile Safety has reinvigorated the effort and commitment to provide the necessary support for all PSAP's to operationalize all Smart911 capabilities.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a public thank you to the Members of the Education Committees and especially recognize your Chairs, Senator English, and Representative Cozart; and House lead sponsor, Representative Baltz for your initiative and persistence in improving safety for students, teachers and school staff with the 2015 School Safety Act. Another special thank you is extended for the leadership and commitment of the Governor's office and the Arkansas General Assembly Arkansas to improve school safety in our state. We are also very grateful and appreciative of the support and cooperation of Commissioner Johnny Key at the Arkansas Department of Education without whom this project would not have been possible. Commissioner Key and his staff have worked diligently to assist in planning for the implementation and disseminating information about the Panic Button to all of the local school districts.

For your convenience, we have constructed a timeline related to the 2015 School Safety Legislation and implementation of the Panic Button solution for Arkansas K12 Schools.

#### TIMELINE

- 4/2/2015 – Notification that HB 1653, The 2015 School Safety Act, is now Act 950
- 6/2015 – Funding was secured through the AR Department of Education
- 7/1/2015 – Contract effective date (several months later than anticipated)
- 7/1/2015 – Arkansas Team including Mullenix & Associates staff; Rave's new Arkansas employee, J.P. French; Rave employee Crystal Ayco, PSAP specialist; and Rave executive and technical staff began to move immediately to initiate implementation of the Panic Button in all schools as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- 7/2015 – Throughout the month of July, the Rave team has been in contact with local 911 centers, local law enforcement agencies and state law enforcement officials to ensure that all local 911 centers are updated and ready for implementation of the Panic Button alert.
- 7/31/2015 – Webinar was held for all K12 School administrators and other appropriate school personnel to provide them with critical information related to implementation. Over 600 school personnel participated in the webinar.
- 8/2015 – The Rave team will continue to work with local school districts and local 911 centers to ensure successful implementation. A second webinar is being planned as a follow-up for school personnel.

It is our goal to continue to discover opportunities to make Arkansas a leader in public safety to benefit the citizens of the state. From providing first responders detailed medical information about individual residents to providing 911 centers with maps of school campuses and buildings in cases of emergency, Rave Mobile Safety is providing innovative ways for the state to increase safety for citizens of every age.

As leaders, you have the privilege and the obligation to help keep your constituents informed of the services available to them. Please take opportunities to encourage your constituents to sign up and complete a safety profile for themselves and their families at [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com). It will provide critical information to first responders that will help save lives!