

---

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

---

### SB 465 (Pérez) - Governor's Office of Emergency Services: California Alert

**Version:** March 24, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 5, 2025

**Policy Vote:** G.O. 14 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** SB 465 requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to establish a statewide emergency alert system called California Alert, as specified.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unknown significant one-time and ongoing costs, likely ranging in the millions of dollars, for OES to contract for and maintain the California Alert system, as well as train local alerting authorities (General Fund).

**Background:** Under the oversight of OES's California State Warning Center, the Alert and Warning program monitors all state-wide alert and warning activities. It offers guidance and support to ensure the effective operation of the Alert and Warning program.

The Warning Center's mission is to serve as the central hub for all Alert and Warning matters across the state, local, city, tribal, federal, school, and special district levels. The objective for the OES Alert and Warning program is to safeguard public safety by assisting the states' alerting authorities in promptly disseminating critical information during emergencies. An alerting authority is a jurisdiction with the designated authority to alert and warn the public when there is an impending natural or human-made disaster, threat, or dangerous or missing person.

OES's Alert and Warning program's key partners include local alerting authorities, the California Broadcast Association, the Disability Disaster Access and Resources program, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Weather Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In particular, FEMA's national system for local alerting, the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS), which sends out Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to provide authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones, is a key partner to local alerting authorities.

There is no cost to sign up for or subscribe to IPAWS alerts, however alerting authorities may incur costs to purchase compatible alert origination software that meet IPAWS requirements. With IPAWS, alerting authorities can target specific geographic areas to ensure only those in the affected area, including visitors, receive the alert. The content and timing of alerts is at the discretion of alerting authorities. FEMA does not review, edit, approve, or disapprove alerts sent by public safety agencies.

#### **Proposed Law:**

- Requires OES to establish a statewide emergency alert system called California Alert.

- Requires OES to contract with a private vendor that provide alerting systems to send California Alerts to registered phone numbers that are not location based.
- Requires OES to establish standards for issuing emergency alerts to California residents across local jurisdictional boundaries.
- Requires California Alert to utilize WEA authorized by IPAWS, FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency information to the public through mobile phones within a designate cell tower's coverage area.
- Provides that city-operated, county-operated, or city- and county-operated public emergency warning systems have the primary responsibility for sending out emergency alerts to California residents.

**-- END --**