

Wilmington, Delaware
March 17, 2022

#

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Cabrera**

WHEREAS, 20 Del. C. § 3142-a (1) creates a health emergency commission that develops a public health emergency plan to be revisited every two years. The commission’s original purpose included developing a “plan that ensures that 90% of the population is covered by a health alert network”; and

WHEREAS, Delaware's current emergency notification system is mainly dependent on landline-based notifications, which is primarily utilized only by 6.5% of the United States population on average. Additionally, wireless cellular devices are the only phone communication used by 62.5% of adults and 73.8% of children. Only 3% of Delawareans have manually registered with the States Emergency Notification System of those participating in wireless-only communication; and

WHEREAS, Wireless Emergency Alert System uses geographically targeted messaging to all available devices near emergency inducing incidents, ensuring high alerts are communicable and relevant to recipients; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic events are defined as having severe health consequences to the health and safety of public health, and alerts need to reach the most significant number of people as fast as possible; and

WHEREAS, 13% of the United States population speak Spanish primarily at home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Wilmington City Council supports House Bill 259 and its incorporation of the use of the Federal Wireless Emergency Alert, in both English and Spanish, to reach the highest percent of the population as quickly as possible in catastrophic situations.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution urges the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 259 that requires Delaware to use the Wireless Emergency Alert (“WEA”) system to notify the public of emergency alerts and requires that the emergency alert system be used when a catastrophic release occurs, with the alerts to be available in both Spanish and English to reach a larger population.