



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT



### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Hartford, CT 06106

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### **RB 56 AAC THE REGISTRATION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS**

*The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.*

At the request of Governor Rell the Department of Public Safety was asked to craft legislative language to address many of the deficiencies in our current Sex Offender Registry Statutes and to explore the structure of the registry system to determine if the state could improve in our efforts to carry out the mission and intent of Megan's Law.

The State of Connecticut currently registers just over four thousand one hundred sex offenders who are required, amongst other things, to verify their address every ninety days. Connecticut's system of registration does not pretend to make determinations that any of these registrants are currently dangerous or is likely to be dangerous in the future. Individuals are included within the registry solely by virtue of their conviction record and state law and this information should be used as tool by parents, educators and those entrusted with the safety of our children to make appropriate decisions for their safety.

The cornerstone of this proposal is the development of two additional classifications of sexual offenses that identify individuals who have sought to prey on the most vulnerable victims in our society: our children, our elderly and those who are generally not capable of protecting themselves. Under this legislation, individuals who commit sexual offenses against victims thirteen years of age or younger would be required to register as having committed a predatory sexual offense against a victim who is a minor. This would lead to a lifetime registration, yearly retaking of their photographs and mandatory reporting of motor vehicle information.

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Similarly, individuals that commit sexual offenses against victims age sixty years of age or older, blind or physically disabled persons, pregnant women, or mentally retarded persons would be required to register as having committed a predatory sexual offense against a protected or other person. These offenders would also be required to maintain lifetime registrations, submit to the yearly retaking of their photograph and mandatory reporting of their motor vehicle information.

The provisions of this proposed legislation would address the growing issue of homelessness amongst registrants. The population of transient registrants are very often unsupervised by Adult Probation or Parole and become increasingly more at risk of re-offense due to the lack of stable housing. Although the Department of Public Safety has assigned a trooper to aid these registrants with maintaining their registry requirements, current legislation has no procedural provisions to support the transient status. Very often these transient registrants violate their requirements and become absconders. The proposal provides for such registrants to verify the specific locations and towns that they remain homeless in every thirty days, providing a legislative means to maintain the registry requirements.

This proposed legislation expands on the scope of Public Act 02-7, which required registrants to report employment or enrollment at an educational institution. The proposal adds a number of educational institutions to the list requiring registrant reporting and includes other institutions where children are likely to be found without their parents outside of those educational institutions. The proposal requires reporting if the registrant is employed, carries on a vocation or is a student at a youth camp, a child day care service, public or private educational institutions including but not limited to elementary, middle, high schools, regional vocational technical schools, charter schools, or secondary schools.

This proposal seeks to provide more information to the public on the offense that the registrant is required to register for by capturing data from the courts on the age and sex of the victim and a brief description of the offense. The proposal would further seek to provide information to the public on the supervision of the registrants by Adult Probation or Parole. This information would include the officer assigned to supervise the registrant, the period of probation or parole and contact information for the office responsible for the supervision of such registrant.

The proposal seeks to establish a legislative protocol for tracking sexual offenders who enter our state. Currently registrants from foreign jurisdictions are required to register within ten days of residing in this state, a system utilized by many states in the country. It is, however, a system that has allowed hundreds of thousands of registrants to move from state to state for prolonged periods of time undetected. The proposed legislation would require persons that are required to register in foreign jurisdictions who enter this state to notify the Department of Public Safety forty eight hours prior to entering the state and then to register within ten days. Persons found in the state in violation of these requirements would be subject to arrest for a class "D" felony.

Lastly, Section 24 of the bill mandates lifetime GPS Monitoring for the following offenses:

- Sexual Assault in the first degree (53a-70)
- Aggravated Sexual Assault (53a-70a)
- Sexual Assault in the second degree (CGS 53a-71)
- Enticing a minor (53a-90a)
- Obscenity to a minor (53a-196)
- Employing a minor in an obscene performance (53a-196a)
- Promoting a minor in an obscene performance (53a-196b)

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,



Leonard C. Boyle  
COMMISSIONER