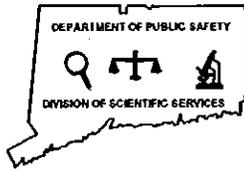




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henlon  
Chief of Staff

March 16, 2009

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 533 AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF A REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDER INTO THE COMMUNITY**

***The Department of Public Safety advises of better notification procedure that should be available in July.***

This proposed bill is undoubtedly intended to increase safety of school children by making certain that school superintendents are aware of the presence of sex offenders in their districts. While the intent is admirable, the procedures will not accomplish the intent.

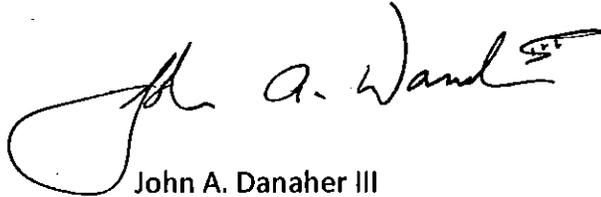
This bill only addresses persons released into the community and does not address the subsequent movements of registrants between towns or from other states. There is a significant amount of movement on the part of registered sex offenders; on some days this agency processes twenty to thirty changes of address.

The agency currently makes notifications to local police departments via regular mail (not certified mail). Those local departments then accept the responsibility of making notifications to their local schools. For some jurisdictions (e.g., Hartford has some 500 registrants) this involves a significant amount of work to keep track of all of the movements that occur and for the local police departments to pass those notifications on to the schools.

The Department of Public Safety is in final contract negotiations for a new database that is scheduled to become active in July of this year. The system will have the ability to allow schools or individuals to register for an email notification that will be sent to them when a registrant moves in or out of their communities. This new email notifications system will comply with the provisions of the federal Adam Walsh Act as to notification of schools, civic organizations and youth groups.

On its face, this bill would seem to have little cost, with the certified mail not being the most significant issue. Within the limited resources of the sex offender registry unit, however, it is important to eliminate costs that do not have a corresponding benefit, including mail costs, color printer costs and clerical costs. The best notification system, providing the most up to date information, will also be the least expensive, i.e., email notification of all sex offender movements that impact a school system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "D".

John A. Danaher III  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety