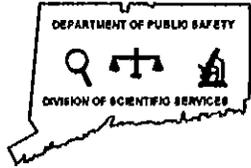


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STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henlon
Chief of Staff

March 22, 2010

State Senator Andrew J. McDonald
Representative Michael P. Lawlor
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

GB 33 – AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORTS THIS BILL

This bill seeks to incorporate into Connecticut law the provisions of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) that make up Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (Pub L. 109-248). The federal legislation under Section 124 of SORNA sets a time frame for state implementation of certain provisions of SORNA. The initial deadline for such implementation was July 27, 2009. The Walsh Act allowed states to apply, in sequence, for two one-year extensions.

In essence, two principal requirements of SORNA were not in place as of July 27, 2009. First, Connecticut needed a significantly updated Sex Offender Registry that had capabilities well beyond the Registry that was operating at that time. Second, the legislation that is being offered today, GB 33, had been offered as HB 6384 in 2009 but had not passed as of July 27, 2009. Consequently, Connecticut sought an extension in 2009, and the Department of Justice granted that request, as it did for all states, thus extending the deadline to July 29, 2010. I have submitted a second request to the Department of Justice for a second one year extension; however we have not received a response, as of this date, with regard to that request. Failure to implement the specified provisions of the act will result in a 10% reduction of federal justice assistance funding under 42 U.S.C. 3750 *et seq.* also known as the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program.

In October of 2009 the Department of Public Safety unveiled a new Sex Offender Registry database and public website. These capabilities of these systems meet the SORNA requirements. Passage of GB 33 will, we believe, significantly improve not only the sex offender registry system in Connecticut but, when enacted by all states, will also improve sex offender registry systems across the country. SORNA establishes a comprehensive set of new minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification in the United States. There are currently very limited standards in state registry laws and this lack of standards has been directly attributed to the inability to register and thereafter locate thousands of sexual offenders across the country.

The SORNA requirements include the development of a universal three tier registration system based solely upon an individual's offense of conviction. This system mirrors Connecticut's current offense-based registration system with a limited number of statutory adjustments.

The Department of Public Safety recognizes that the support of this proposed legislation by the Joint Committee on Judiciary is critical to the successful implementation of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act in this state and we urge your support of this proposal.

Sincerely,



John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER