



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 969**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 54-257 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
4 shall, not later than January 1, 1999, establish and maintain a registry of  
5 all persons required to register under sections 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 and  
6 54-254. The department shall, in cooperation with the Office of the Chief  
7 Court Administrator, the Department of Correction and the Psychiatric  
8 Security Review Board, develop appropriate forms for use by agencies  
9 and individuals to report registration information, including changes of  
10 residence address. Upon receipt of registration information, the  
11 department shall enter the information into the registry and notify the  
12 local police department or state police troop having jurisdiction where  
13 the registrant resides or plans to reside. If a registrant notifies the  
14 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection that such  
15 registrant is employed at, carries on a vocation at or is a student at a  
16 trade or professional institution or institution of higher learning in this  
17 state, the department shall notify the law enforcement agency with  
18 jurisdiction over such institution. If a registrant reports a residence in

19 another state, the department shall notify the state police agency of that  
20 state or such other agency in that state that maintains registry  
21 information, if known. The department shall also transmit all  
22 registration information, conviction data, photographic images and  
23 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in such form as said  
24 bureau shall require for inclusion in a national registry.

25 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
26 may suspend the registration of any person registered under section 54-  
27 251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254 while such person is incarcerated, under  
28 civil commitment or residing outside this state. During the period that  
29 such registration is under suspension, the department is not required to  
30 verify the residence address of the registrant pursuant to subsection (c)  
31 of this section and may withdraw the registration information from  
32 public access. Upon the release of the registrant from incarceration or  
33 civil commitment or resumption of residency in this state by the  
34 registrant, the department shall reinstate the registration, redistribute  
35 the registration information in accordance with subsection (a) of this  
36 section and resume verifying the residence address of the registrant in  
37 accordance with subsection (c) of this section. Suspension of registration  
38 shall not affect the date of expiration of the registration obligation of the  
39 registrant under section 54-251, 54-252 or 54-253.

40 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the  
41 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall verify  
42 the residence address of each registrant by mailing a nonforwardable  
43 verification form to the registrant at the registrant's last reported  
44 residence address. Such form shall require the registrant to sign a  
45 statement that the registrant continues to reside at the registrant's last  
46 reported residence address and return the form by mail, facsimile or  
47 electronic mail by a date which is ten days after the date such form was  
48 mailed to the registrant. The form shall contain a statement that failure  
49 to return the form or providing false information is a violation of section  
50 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, as the case may be. In the case of a  
51 registrant who resides (1) in a town in which mail delivery is effectuated

52 by one or more post offices located in one or more different towns, or  
53 (2) at a residence address for which there is no residential mail delivery,  
54 the local police department or the state police troop having jurisdiction  
55 where the registrant resides shall verify in person such registrant's  
56 residence address. Each person required to register under section 54-  
57 251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254 shall have such person's residence address  
58 verified in such manner every ninety days after such person's initial  
59 registration date. In the event that a registrant fails to return the  
60 residence address verification form, the Department of Emergency  
61 Services and Public Protection shall notify the local police department  
62 or the state police troop having jurisdiction over the registrant's last  
63 reported residence address, and that agency shall apply for a warrant to  
64 be issued for the registrant's arrest under section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253  
65 or 54-254, as the case may be. The Department of Emergency Services  
66 and Public Protection shall not verify the address of registrants whose  
67 last reported residence address was outside this state.

68 (d) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
69 shall include in the registry the most recent photographic image of each  
70 registrant taken by the department, the Department of Correction, a law  
71 enforcement agency or the Court Support Services Division of the  
72 Judicial Department and shall retake the photographic image of each  
73 registrant at least once every five years.

74 (e) Whenever the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
75 Protection receives notice from a superior court pursuant to section 52-  
76 11 or a probate court pursuant to section 45a-99 that such court has  
77 ordered the change of name of a person, and the department determines  
78 that such person is listed in the registry, the department shall revise such  
79 person's registration information accordingly.

80 (f) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
81 shall develop a protocol for the notification of other state agencies, the  
82 Judicial Department and local police departments whenever a person  
83 listed in the registry changes such person's name and notifies the  
84 commissioner of the new name pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-

85 253 or 54-254 or whenever the commissioner determines pursuant to  
86 subsection (e) of this section that a person listed in the registry has  
87 changed such person's name.

88 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 54-258 of the general statutes is  
89 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
90 *1, 2023*):

91 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes,  
92 except subdivisions (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection, the registry  
93 maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
94 Protection shall be a public record and shall be accessible to the public  
95 during normal business hours. The Department of Emergency Services  
96 and Public Protection shall make registry information available to the  
97 public through the Internet. Not less than once per calendar quarter, the  
98 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall issue  
99 notices to all print and electronic media in the state regarding the  
100 availability and means of accessing the registry. Each local police  
101 department and each state police troop shall keep a record of all  
102 registration information transmitted to it by the Department of  
103 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and shall make such  
104 information accessible to the public during normal business hours.

105 (2) (A) Any state agency, the Judicial Department, any state police  
106 troop or any local police department may, at its discretion, notify any  
107 government agency, private organization or individual of registration  
108 information when such agency, said department, such troop or such  
109 local police department, as the case may be, believes such notification is  
110 necessary to protect the public or any individual in any jurisdiction from  
111 any person who is subject to registration under section 54-251, 54-252,  
112 54-253 or 54-254.

113 (B) (i) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or  
114 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's residence address and  
115 notifies the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of  
116 such change pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the

117 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by  
118 electronic mail, notify the superintendent of schools for the school  
119 district in which the registrant resides, or plans to reside, of such release  
120 or new residence address, and provide such superintendent with the  
121 same registry information for such registrant that the department makes  
122 available to the public through the Internet under subdivision (1) of this  
123 subsection.

124 (ii) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or  
125 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's residence address and  
126 notifies the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of  
127 such change pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the  
128 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by  
129 electronic mail, notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in  
130 which the registrant resides, or plans to reside, of such release or new  
131 residence address, and provide such chief executive officer with the  
132 same registry information for such registrant that the department makes  
133 available to the public through the Internet under subdivision (1) of this  
134 subsection.

135 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
136 subsection, state agencies, the Judicial Department, state police troops  
137 and local police departments shall not disclose the identity of any victim  
138 of a crime committed by a registrant or treatment information provided  
139 to the registry pursuant to sections 54-102g and 54-250 to 54-258a,  
140 inclusive, except to government agencies for bona fide law enforcement  
141 or security purposes.

142 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
143 subsection, registration information the dissemination of which has  
144 been restricted by court order pursuant to section 54-255 and which is  
145 not otherwise subject to disclosure, shall not be a public record and shall  
146 be released only for law enforcement purposes until such restriction is  
147 removed by the court pursuant to said section.

148 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this

