
SENATE BILL 6433

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Long, Franklin, Zarelli, Winsley and Stevens; by request of Attorney General

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to registration of individuals who have committed
2 sex or kidnapping offenses; amending RCW 9A.44.135, 9A.44.140, and
3 43.43.540; reenacting and amending RCW 9A.44.130; and declaring an
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.44.130 and 1997 c 340 s 3 and 1997 c 113 s 3 are
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) Any adult or juvenile residing in this state who has been found
9 to have committed or has been convicted of any sex offense or
10 kidnapping offense, or who has been found not guilty by reason of
11 insanity under chapter 10.77 RCW of committing any sex offense or
12 kidnapping offense, shall register with the county sheriff for the
13 county of the person's residence. Where a person required to register
14 under this section is in custody of the state department of
15 corrections, the state department of social and health services, a
16 local division of youth services, or a local jail or juvenile detention
17 facility as a result of a sex offense or kidnapping offense, the person
18 shall also register at the time of release from custody with an

1 official designated by the agency that has jurisdiction over the
2 person.

3 (2) The person shall provide (~~(the county sheriff with)~~) the
4 following information when registering: (a) Name; (b) address; (c)
5 date and place of birth; (d) place of employment; (e) crime for which
6 convicted; (f) date and place of conviction; (g) aliases used; and (h)
7 social security number.

8 (3)(a) Offenders shall register within the following deadlines.
9 For purposes of this section the term "conviction" refers to adult
10 convictions and juvenile adjudications for sex offenses or kidnapping
11 offenses:

12 (i) OFFENDERS IN CUSTODY. (A) Sex offenders who committed a sex
13 offense on, before, or after February 28, 1990, and who, on or after
14 July 28, 1991, are in custody, as a result of that offense, of the
15 state department of corrections, the state department of social and
16 health services, a local division of youth services, or a local jail or
17 juvenile detention facility, and (B) kidnapping offenders who on or
18 after July 27, 1997, are in custody of the state department of
19 corrections, the state department of social and health services, a
20 local division of youth services, or a local jail or juvenile detention
21 facility, must register at the time of release from custody with an
22 official designated by the agency that has jurisdiction over the
23 offender. The agency shall within three days forward the registration
24 information to the county sheriff for the county of the offender's
25 anticipated residence. The offender must also register within twenty-
26 four hours from the time of release with the county sheriff for the
27 county of the person's residence. The agency that has jurisdiction
28 over the offender shall provide notice to the offender of the duty to
29 register. Failure to register at the time of release and within
30 twenty-four hours of release constitutes a violation of this section
31 and is punishable as provided in subsection (7) of this section.

32 (ii) OFFENDERS NOT IN CUSTODY BUT UNDER STATE OR LOCAL
33 JURISDICTION. Sex offenders who, on July 28, 1991, are not in custody
34 but are under the jurisdiction of the indeterminate sentence review
35 board or under the department of correction's active supervision, as
36 defined by the department of corrections, the state department of
37 social and health services, or a local division of youth services, for
38 sex offenses committed before, on, or after February 28, 1990, must
39 register within ten days of July 28, 1991. Kidnapping offenders who,

1 on July 27, 1997, are not in custody but are under the jurisdiction of
2 the indeterminate sentence review board or under the department of
3 correction's active supervision, as defined by the department of
4 corrections, the state department of social and health services, or a
5 local division of youth services, for kidnapping offenses committed
6 before, on, or after July 27, 1997, must register within ten days of
7 July 27, 1997. A change in supervision status of a sex offender who
8 was required to register under this subsection (3)(a)(ii) as of July
9 28, 1991, or a kidnapping offender required to register as of July 27,
10 1997, shall not relieve the offender of the duty to register or to
11 reregister following a change in residence. The obligation to register
12 shall only cease pursuant to RCW 9A.44.140.

13 (iii) OFFENDERS UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION. Sex offenders who, on
14 or after July 23, 1995, and kidnapping offenders who, on or after July
15 27, 1997, as a result of that offense are in the custody of the United
16 States bureau of prisons or other federal or military correctional
17 agency for sex offenses committed before, on, or after February 28,
18 1990, or kidnapping offenses committed on, before, or after July 27,
19 1997, must register within twenty-four hours from the time of release
20 with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence. Sex
21 offenders who, on July 23, 1995, are not in custody but are under the
22 jurisdiction of the United States bureau of prisons, United States
23 courts, United States parole commission, or military parole board for
24 sex offenses committed before, on, or after February 28, 1990, must
25 register within ten days of July 23, 1995. Kidnapping offenders who,
26 on July 27, 1997, are not in custody but are under the jurisdiction of
27 the United States bureau of prisons, United States courts, United
28 States parole commission, or military parole board for kidnapping
29 offenses committed before, on, or after July 27, 1997, must register
30 within ten days of July 27, 1997. A change in supervision status of a
31 sex offender who was required to register under this subsection
32 (3)(a)(iii) as of July 23, 1995, or a kidnapping offender required to
33 register as of July 27, 1997 shall not relieve the offender of the duty
34 to register or to reregister following a change in residence. The
35 obligation to register shall only cease pursuant to RCW 9A.44.140.

36 (iv) OFFENDERS WHO ARE CONVICTED BUT NOT CONFINED. Sex offenders
37 who are convicted of a sex offense on or after July 28, 1991, for a sex
38 offense that was committed on or after February 28, 1990, and
39 kidnapping offenders who are convicted on or after July 27, 1997, for

1 a kidnapping offense that was committed on or after July 27, 1997, but
2 who are not sentenced to serve a term of confinement immediately upon
3 sentencing, shall report to the county sheriff to register immediately
4 upon completion of being sentenced.

5 (v) OFFENDERS WHO ARE NEW RESIDENTS OR RETURNING WASHINGTON
6 RESIDENTS. Sex offenders and kidnapping offenders who move to
7 Washington state from another state or a foreign country that are not
8 under the jurisdiction of the state department of corrections, the
9 indeterminate sentence review board, or the state department of social
10 and health services at the time of moving to Washington, must register
11 within ((~~thirty~~)) ten days of establishing residence or reestablishing
12 residence if the person is a former Washington resident. The duty to
13 register under this subsection applies to sex offenders convicted under
14 the laws of another state or a foreign country, federal or military
15 statutes, or Washington state for offenses committed on or after
16 February 28, 1990, and to kidnapping offenders convicted under the laws
17 of another state or a foreign country, federal or military statutes, or
18 Washington state for offenses committed on or after July 27, 1997. Sex
19 offenders and kidnapping offenders from other states or a foreign
20 country who, when they move to Washington, are under the jurisdiction
21 of the department of corrections, the indeterminate sentence review
22 board, or the department of social and health services must register
23 within twenty-four hours of moving to Washington. The agency that has
24 jurisdiction over the offender shall notify the offender of the
25 registration requirements before the offender moves to Washington.

26 (vi) OFFENDERS FOUND NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY. Any adult
27 or juvenile who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity under
28 chapter 10.77 RCW of (A) committing a sex offense on, before, or after
29 February 28, 1990, and who, on or after July 23, 1995, is in custody,
30 as a result of that finding, of the state department of social and
31 health services, or (B) committing a kidnapping offense on, before, or
32 after July 27, 1997, and who on or after July 27, 1997, is in custody,
33 as a result of that finding, of the state department of social and
34 health services, must register within twenty-four hours from the time
35 of release with the county sheriff for the county of the person's
36 residence. The state department of social and health services shall
37 provide notice to the adult or juvenile in its custody of the duty to
38 register. Any adult or juvenile who has been found not guilty by
39 reason of insanity of committing a sex offense on, before, or after

1 February 28, 1990, but who was released before July 23, 1995, or any
2 adult or juvenile who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity
3 of committing a kidnapping offense but who was released before July 27,
4 1997, shall be required to register within twenty-four hours of
5 receiving notice of this registration requirement. The state
6 department of social and health services shall make reasonable attempts
7 within available resources to notify sex offenders who were released
8 before July 23, 1995, and kidnapping offenders who were released before
9 July 27, 1997. Failure to register within twenty-four hours of
10 release, or of receiving notice, constitutes a violation of this
11 section and is punishable as provided in subsection (7) of this
12 section.

13 (b) Failure to register within the time required under this section
14 constitutes a per se violation of this section and is punishable as
15 provided in subsection (7) of this section. The county sheriff shall
16 not be required to determine whether the person is living within the
17 county.

18 (c) An arrest on charges of failure to register, service of an
19 information, or a complaint for a violation of this section, or
20 arraignment on charges for a violation of this section, constitutes
21 actual notice of the duty to register. Any person charged with the
22 crime of failure to register under this section who asserts as a
23 defense the lack of notice of the duty to register shall register
24 immediately following actual notice of the duty through arrest,
25 service, or arraignment. Failure to register as required under this
26 subsection (c) constitutes grounds for filing another charge of failing
27 to register. Registering following arrest, service, or arraignment on
28 charges shall not relieve the offender from criminal liability for
29 failure to register prior to the filing of the original charge.

30 (d) The deadlines for the duty to register under this section do
31 not relieve any sex offender of the duty to register under this section
32 as it existed prior to July 28, 1991.

33 (4)(a) If any person required to register pursuant to this section
34 changes his or her residence address within the same county, the person
35 must send written notice of the change of address to the county sheriff
36 at least fourteen days before moving. If any person required to
37 register pursuant to this section moves to a new county, the person
38 must send written notice of the change of address at least fourteen
39 days before moving to the county sheriff in the new county of residence

1 and must register with that county sheriff within twenty-four hours of
2 moving. The person must also send written notice within ten days of
3 the change of address in the new county to the county sheriff with whom
4 the person last registered. The county sheriff with whom the person
5 last registered shall promptly forward the information concerning the
6 change of address to the county sheriff for the county of the person's
7 new residence. If any person required to register pursuant to this
8 section moves out of Washington state, the person must also send
9 written notice within ten days of moving to the new state or a foreign
10 country to the county sheriff with whom the person last registered in
11 Washington state. Within ten days of receipt of notice of change of
12 address to a new state, the county sheriff shall forward the
13 information regarding the change of address to the agency designated by
14 the new state as the state's offender registration agency.

15 (b) It is an affirmative defense to a charge that the person failed
16 to send a notice at least fourteen days in advance of moving as
17 required under (a) of this subsection that the person did not know the
18 location of his or her new residence at least fourteen days before
19 moving. The defendant must establish the defense by a preponderance of
20 the evidence and, to prevail on the defense, must also prove by a
21 preponderance that the defendant sent the required notice within
22 twenty-four hours of determining the new address.

23 (5) The county sheriff shall obtain a photograph of the individual
24 and shall obtain a copy of the individual's fingerprints.

25 (6) For the purpose of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200, 43.43.540,
26 70.48.470, and 72.09.330:

27 (a) "Sex offense" means any offense defined as a sex offense by RCW
28 9.94A.030 and any violation of RCW 9.68A.040 (sexual exploitation of a
29 minor), 9.68A.050 (dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually
30 explicit conduct), 9.68A.060 (sending, bringing into state depictions
31 of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), 9.68A.070 (possession
32 of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), 9.68A.090
33 (communication with minor for immoral purposes), 9.68A.100 (patronizing
34 juvenile prostitute), or 9A.44.096 (sexual misconduct with a minor in
35 the second degree), as well as any gross misdemeanor that is, under
36 chapter 9A.28 RCW, a criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or
37 criminal conspiracy to commit an offense that is classified as a sex
38 offense under RCW 9.94A.030.

1 (b) "Kidnapping offense" means the crimes of kidnapping in the
2 first degree, kidnapping in the second degree, and unlawful
3 imprisonment as defined in chapter 9A.40 RCW, where the victim is a
4 minor and the offender is not the minor's parent.

5 (7) A person who knowingly fails to register or who moves without
6 notifying the county sheriff as required by this section is guilty of
7 a class C felony if the crime for which the individual was convicted
8 was a felony or a federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense
9 that under the laws of this state would be a felony. If the crime was
10 other than a felony or a federal or out-of-state conviction for an
11 offense that under the laws of this state would be other than a felony,
12 violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9A.44.135 and 1995 c 248 s 3 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 (1) When ((a-sex)) an offender registers with the county sheriff
16 pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130, the county sheriff shall make reasonable
17 attempts to verify that the ((sex)) offender is residing at the
18 registered address. Reasonable attempts at verifying an address shall
19 include at a minimum ((sending certified mail, with return receipt
20 requested, to the sex offender at the registered address, and if the
21 return receipt is not signed by the sex offender, talking in person
22 with the residents living at the address))):

23 (a) Each year the county sheriff shall send by certified mail, with
24 return receipt requested, a nonforwardable verification form to the
25 offender at the offender's last registered address.

26 (b) The offender must sign the verification form, state on the form
27 whether he or she still resides at the last registered address, and
28 return the form to the county sheriff within ten days after receipt of
29 the form. When returning the form, the offender shall appear at the
30 office of the county sheriff to provide a copy of his or her
31 fingerprints and a current photograph.

32 (2) The sheriff shall make reasonable attempts to locate any sex
33 offender who fails to return the verification form or who cannot be
34 located at the registered address. If the offender fails to return the
35 verification form or the offender is not at the last registered
36 address, the county sheriff shall promptly forward this information to
37 the Washington state patrol for inclusion in the central registry of
38 sex offenders.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9A.44.140 and 1997 c 113 s 4 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The duty to register under RCW 9A.44.130 shall end:

4 (a) For a person convicted of a class A felony, or a person
5 convicted of any sex offense or kidnapping offense who has one or more
6 prior conviction for a sex offense or kidnapping offense: Such person
7 may only be relieved of the duty to register under subsection (3) or
8 (4) of this section.

9 (b) For a person convicted of a class B felony, and the person does
10 not have one or more prior conviction for a sex offense or kidnapping
11 offense: Fifteen years after the last date of release from
12 confinement, if any, (including full-time residential treatment)
13 pursuant to the conviction, or entry of the judgment and sentence, if
14 the person has spent fifteen consecutive years in the community without
15 being convicted of any new offenses.

16 (c) For a person convicted of a class C felony, a violation of RCW
17 9.68A.090 or 9A.44.096, or an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to
18 commit a class C felony, and the person does not have one or more prior
19 conviction for a sex offense or kidnapping offense: Ten years after
20 the last date of release from confinement, if any, (including full-time
21 residential treatment) pursuant to the conviction, or entry of the
22 judgment and sentence, if the person has spent ten consecutive years in
23 the community without being convicted of any new offenses.

24 (2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply
25 equally to a person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity
26 under chapter 10.77 RCW of a sex offense or kidnapping offense.

27 (3) Any person having a duty to register under RCW 9A.44.130 may
28 petition the superior court to be relieved of that duty, if the person
29 has spent ten consecutive years in the community without being
30 convicted of any new offenses. The petition shall be made to the court
31 in which the petitioner was convicted of the offense that subjects him
32 or her to the duty to register, or, in the case of convictions in other
33 states, a foreign country, or a federal or military court, to the court
34 in Thurston county. The prosecuting attorney of the county shall be
35 named and served as the respondent in any such petition. The court
36 shall consider the nature of the registrable offense committed, and the
37 criminal and relevant noncriminal behavior of the petitioner both
38 before and after conviction, and may consider other factors. Except as
39 provided in subsection (4) of this section, the court may relieve the

1 petitioner of the duty to register only if the petitioner shows, with
2 clear and convincing evidence, that future registration of the
3 petitioner will not serve the purposes of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200,
4 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330.

5 (4) An offender having a duty to register under RCW 9A.44.130 for
6 a sex offense or kidnapping offense committed when the offender was a
7 juvenile may petition the superior court to be relieved of that duty.
8 The court shall consider the nature of the registrable offense
9 committed, and the criminal and relevant noncriminal behavior of the
10 petitioner both before and after adjudication, and may consider other
11 factors. The court may relieve the petitioner of the duty to register
12 for a sex offense or kidnapping offense that was committed while the
13 petitioner was fifteen years of age or older only if the petitioner
14 shows, with clear and convincing evidence, that future registration of
15 the petitioner will not serve the purposes of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200,
16 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330. The court may relieve
17 the petitioner of the duty to register for a sex offense or kidnapping
18 offense that was committed while the petitioner was under the age of
19 fifteen if the petitioner (a) has not been adjudicated of any
20 additional sex offenses or kidnapping offenses during the twenty-four
21 months following the adjudication for the offense giving rise to the
22 duty to register, and (b) the petitioner proves by a preponderance of
23 the evidence that future registration of the petitioner will not serve
24 the purposes of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 46.20.187,
25 70.48.470, and 72.09.330.

26 (5) Unless relieved of the duty to register pursuant to this
27 section, a violation of RCW 9A.44.130 is an ongoing offense for
28 purposes of the statute of limitations under RCW 9A.04.080.

29 (6) Nothing in RCW 9.94A.220 relating to discharge of an offender
30 shall be construed as operating to relieve the offender of his or her
31 duty to register pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.43.540 and 1997 c 113 s 6 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 The county sheriff shall forward the information, photographs, and
35 fingerprints obtained pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130, including any notice
36 of change of address, to the Washington state patrol within ((five))
37 three working days. The state patrol shall maintain a central registry
38 of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders required to register under

1 RCW 9A.44.130 and shall adopt rules consistent with chapters 10.97,
2 10.98, and 43.43 RCW as are necessary to carry out the purposes of RCW
3 9A.44.130, 9A.44.140, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, and
4 72.09.330. The Washington state patrol shall reimburse the counties
5 for the costs of processing the offender registration, including taking
6 the fingerprints and the photographs.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
8 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
9 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
10 persons or circumstances is not affected.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
13 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
14 immediately.

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