

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2817

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Human Services & Corrections, February 25, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to a person's identifying information submitted in the course of using the electronic statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program for the purpose of receiving notification regarding registered sex offenders.

**Brief Description:** Exempting a person's identifying information from public disclosure when submitted in the course of using the sex offender notification and registration program for the purpose of receiving notification regarding registered sex offenders.

**Sponsors:** Representatives O'Brien, Pearson and Kelley.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/10/10, 96-0.

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 2/25/10 [DPA].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Chair; Regala, Vice Chair; Stevens, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Carrell and McAuliffe.

**Staff:** Shani Bauer (786-7468)

**Background:** The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) operates an electronic statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program (SONAR) which contains a database of all registered sex offenders in the state of Washington. As required by law, WASPC creates and maintains a public website which posts all level II and level III sex offenders. WASPC may also disclose information about offenders classified as level I upon the request of any victim or witness to the offense or any community member who lives near the offender.

The SONAR system allows a person to register to receive an email alert whenever an offender registers within 1 mile of the person's address. To register, the person must submit his or her name, address, and email address.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments):** Information about a person who registers to receive email alerts from the SONAR system, including the person's name, address, and email address, is exempt from public disclosure.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: WASPC runs the website that contains the sex offender database and sends out an email to those persons who live within a one mile radius of an offender and who have requested notification. This bill protects the requestor's information.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative O'Brien, prime sponsor.