

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 77 Sexual Offenders and Predators

SPONSOR(S): Glorioso

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 320

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee		Kramer	Kramer
2) Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council			
3) Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations Committee			
4) Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill provides that for a person convicted of a specified sexual offense against a victim under the age of 18, it is unlawful to:

- Loiter or prowl within 300 feet of a place where children regularly congregate, including, but not limited to, a school, day care center, playground, or park without a justifiable reason or purpose;
- Knowingly approach, contact or communicate with a child under 18 years of age in any public park building or on real property comprising any public park or playground unless the offender is a parent or guardian of a person under 18 year of age who is also present within close proximity in the building or on the grounds; or
- Knowingly be present in any child care facility or pre-K through 12 school or on real property comprising any child care facility or pre-K through 12 school unless the offender has provided written notification of his or her intent to be present to the school board, superintendent, principal, or child care facility owner. The offender is responsible for notifying the child care facility owner or the principal's office when he or she arrives and departs the child care facility or school. If the offender is to be present in the vicinity of children, the offender has the duty to remain under direct supervision of a child care facility or school official or designated chaperone.

The bill provides exceptions. A violation of this section will be a first degree misdemeanor.

The bill will prohibit certain offenders on supervision for a sexual offense from visiting areas where children regularly congregate, including but not limited to, schools, day care centers, parks and playgrounds. The bill will prohibit certain offenders on supervision from participating in holiday events where children are present without prior approval including, but not limited to, distributing Halloween candy or wearing a costume that appeals to children such as a Santa Claus, Easter Bunny or clown costume.

The bill requires registered sexual predators or sexual offender to provide information regarding his or her transient residence.

On February 25, 2009, the Criminal Justice Impact Conference determined that this bill would have an insignificant prison bed impact on the Department of Corrections.

## HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

*Sexual Predator/Offender Registration:* In very general terms, the distinction between a sexual predator and a sexual offender is based on what offense the person has been convicted of, whether the person has previously been convicted of a sexual offense and the date the offense occurred. A sexual predator or sexual offender must comply with a number of statutory requirements.<sup>1</sup> Failure to comply with these requirements is a third or second degree felony, depending of the offense.

During initial registration, a sexual predator or sexual offender is required to provide certain information, including the address of his or her permanent or temporary residence, to the sheriff's department who, in turn, provides this information to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for inclusion in the statewide database. For a sexual predator or sexual offender who is not in the custody of or under the supervision of the Department of Corrections or a local jail, this information must be provided within 48 hours of establishing or maintaining a residence.

A sexual predator or sexual offender is required to update information regarding his or her permanent or temporary residence. A sexual predator or sexual offender who vacates a permanent residence and fails to establish or maintain another permanent or temporary residence must, within 48 hours after vacating the permanent residence, report in person to the sheriff's office of the county in which he or she is located. The sexual predator must provide an address for the residence or other location that he or she is or will be occupying during the time in which he or she fails to establish or maintain a permanent or temporary residence. Currently, the term "temporary residence" is defined as follows:  
a place where the person abides, lodges, or resides for a period of 5 or more days in the aggregate during any calendar year and which is not the person's permanent address or, for a person whose permanent residence is not in this state, a place where the person is employed, practices a vocation, or is enrolled as a student for any period of time in this state.<sup>2</sup>

The bill specifies that the definition includes vacation, business or personal travel destinations in or out of the state.

The bill defines the term "transient residence" to mean:

A place or county where a person lives, remains, or is located for a period of 5 or more days in the aggregate during a calendar year and which is not the person's permanent or temporary

---

<sup>1</sup> See generally, ss. 775.21, 943.0435 and 944.607, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> s. 775.21(2)(g), F.S.

address. The term may include, but is not limited to, a place where the person sleeps or seeks shelter, and a location that has no specific street address.

The bill requires a sexual predator or sexual offender to provide information regarding his or her transient residence.

*Loitering or prowling:* Certain sexual predators who have committed an offense against a minor victim and certain offenders who are on supervision for a sexual offense are prohibited from working at specified locations.<sup>3</sup> Although there are statutory restrictions on where certain people who have been convicted of a sexual offense can reside,<sup>4</sup> there are no statutory restrictions on where a person who has been convicted of a sexual offense can visit.

The loitering statute, section 856.021, F.S. provides as follows:

- (1) It is unlawful for any person to loiter or prowl in a place, at a time or in a manner not usual for law-abiding individuals, under circumstances that warrant a justifiable and reasonable alarm or immediate concern for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity.
- (2) Among the circumstances which may be considered in determining whether such alarm or immediate concern is warranted is the fact that the person takes flight upon appearance of a law enforcement officer, refuses to identify himself or herself, or manifestly endeavors to conceal himself or herself or any object. Unless flight by the person or other circumstance makes it impracticable, a law enforcement officer shall, prior to any arrest for an offense under this section, afford the person an opportunity to dispel any alarm or immediate concern which would otherwise be warranted by requesting the person to identify himself or herself and explain his or her presence and conduct. No person shall be convicted of an offense under this section if the law enforcement officer did not comply with this procedure or if it appears at trial that the explanation given by the person is true and, if believed by the officer at the time, would have dispelled the alarm or immediate concern.

Currently, a violation of this section is a second degree misdemeanor.

The bill provides that for a person convicted of an offense listed in the sexual offender statute<sup>5</sup> where the victim was under the age of 18, it is unlawful to:

1. Loiter or prowl<sup>6</sup> within 300 feet of a place where children regularly congregate, including, but not limited to, a school, day care center, playground, or park without a justifiable reason or purpose;
2. Knowingly approach, contact or communicate with a child under 18 years of age in any public park building or on real property comprising any public park or playground unless the offender is a parent or guardian of a person under 18 year of age who is also present within close proximity in the building or on the grounds; or
3. Knowingly be present in any child care facility or pre-K through 12 school or on real property comprising any child care facility or pre-K through 12 school when the child care facility or school is in operation unless the offender has provided written notification of his or her intent to be present to the school board, superintendent, principal, or child care facility owner. The offender is responsible

<sup>3</sup> See s. 775.21(10)(b);947.1405(7)(a)6.;948.30(1)(f), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> See s. 794.065; 947.1405(7)(a)2; 948.30(1)(b), F.S

<sup>5</sup> The offenses includes sections 787.01 (kidnapping); s. 787.02 (false imprisonment); s. 787.025 (luring or enticing a child); s. 794.011 (sexual battery); s. 794.05 (unlawful sexual activity with certain minors); s. 796.03 (procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution); s. 796.035, (selling or buying of a minor into sex trafficking or prostitution); 800.04 (lewd or lascivious offenses); 825.1025(2)(b) (lewd or lascivious battery on an elderly person); s. 827.071 (promoting sexual performance by a child); s. 847.0133 (selling or showing obscenity to a minor); 847.0135 (traveling to meet a minor for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual activity); s. 847.0137; (transmitting child pornography); s. 847.0138 (transmitting material harmful to minors); s. 985.701 (sexual misconduct by a Department of Juvenile Justice employee)

<sup>6</sup> The bill provides that the term "loiter or prowl" has the same meaning as in s. 856.021, F.S.

for notifying the child care facility owner or the principal's office when he or she arrives and departs the child care facility or school. If the offender is to be present in the vicinity of children, the offender has the duty to remain under direct supervision of a child care facility or school official<sup>7</sup> or designated chaperone.

The bill provides that it is not a violation of this provision if, the child care facility or school is a voting location and the offender is present for the purpose of voting during the hours designated for voting or if the offender is only dropping off or picking up his or her own children or grandchildren at the child care facility or school.

The bill provides that a violation of this section will be a first degree misdemeanor.

*Probation and community control - generally:* Probation is a form of community supervision of offenders requiring specified contacts with probation officers, compliance with standard statutory terms and conditions, and compliance with any specific terms and conditions required by the sentencing court.<sup>8</sup> Community control is a form of intensive, supervised custody in the community, including surveillance on weekends and holidays, administered by officers with restricted caseloads. Community control is an individualized program in which the freedom of an offender is restricted within the community, home, or non-institutional residential placement and specific sanctions are imposed and enforced.<sup>9</sup>

*Conditional release - generally:* The conditional release program requires an inmate convicted of repeated violent offenses that is nearing the end of his or her sentence to be released under close supervision.<sup>10</sup> The Parole Commission sets the length and conditions of release after reviewing information provided by the Department of Corrections.<sup>11</sup> The Department of Corrections supervises the offender while on conditional release.

*Conditions of probation/community control/conditional release:* Currently, an offender who is on probation or community control for a specified sexual offense<sup>12</sup> and therefore supervised by the Department of Corrections must comply with additional terms and conditions of supervision including the following:

1. A prohibition from living within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center, park, playground, or other place where children regularly congregate if the victim was under the age of 18.<sup>13</sup>
2. A prohibition on any contact with the victim unless approved by the victim, the offender's therapist and the sentencing court.<sup>14</sup>
3. If the victim was under the age of 18, a prohibition on contact with a child under the age of 18 except in specified circumstances.<sup>15</sup>
4. If the victim was under the age of 18, a prohibition on working for pay or as a volunteer at any place where children regularly congregate, including but not limited to schools, day care centers, parks, playgrounds, pet stores, libraries, zoos, theme parks and malls.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> The bill defines the term "school official" to mean a principal, school resource officer, teacher or any other certified employee of the school, the superintendent of the school board, the superintendent of schools, a member of the school board, a child care facility owner or a child care provider.

<sup>8</sup> Section 948.001(5), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 948.001(2), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Inmates who qualify for conditional release include: 1) those who have previously served time in a correctional institution and are currently incarcerated for one a list of violent offenses including murder, sexual battery, robbery, assault or battery; 2) inmates sentenced as a habitual offender, a violent habitual offender or a violent career criminal; 3) inmates who were found to be a sexual predator. s. 947.1405(2), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> The length of supervision cannot exceed the maximum penalty imposed by the court. (see s. 947.1405(6)).

<sup>12</sup> s. 948.30(1)(b), F.S. The specified offenses include sexual battery offenses (chapter 794), lewd or lascivious offenses (s. 800.04, F.S), promoting sexual performance by a child (s. 827.071, F.S.) and selling or buying minors for child pornography (s. 847.0145, F.S.)

<sup>13</sup> Section 948.30(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> S. 948.30(1)(d), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> s. 948.30(1)(e), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> s. 948.30(1)(f), F.S.

For inmates convicted of certain sexual offenses<sup>17</sup> or offenses against children, who are subject to conditional release, section 947.1405(7)(a), F.S., requires the Parole Commission to impose a list of conditions similar to those above.

*Additional conditions required by HB 77:* HB 77 provides that effective July 1, 2009, the court must impose special conditions, described below, on the following probationers or community controllees:

1. A probationer or community controllee who committed the offense of sexual battery, a lewd or lascivious offense, promoting sexual performance by a child or selling or buying a minor for child pornography when at the time of the offense, the victim was under 16 years of age and the offender was 18 years of age or older;
2. A probationer or community controllee who is designated as a sexual predator;
3. A probationer or community controllee designated as a sexual predator or subject to registration as a sexual offender who has committed an offense that would meet the criteria for the designation or the registration requirement where, at the time of the offense, the victim was under 16 years of age and the probationer or community controllee was 18 years of age or older, who commits a violation of s. 775.21 or s. 943.0435 on or after July 1, 2009 and who is not otherwise subject to this paragraph.

The special conditions which must be imposed on this group of probationers and community controllees include:

1. A prohibition on visiting areas where children regularly congregate, including but not limited to, schools, day care centers, parks and playgrounds. The bill provides that the court may also designate additional locations to protect the victim. The bill provides that this does not prohibit the probationer or community controllee's attendance at religious services<sup>18</sup>.
2. A prohibition on participating in holiday events where children are present without prior approval from the court, including but not limited to distributing candy or other items to children on Halloween, entertaining at children's parties; or wearing costume to appeal to children. Such costumes include, but are not limited to, a Santa Claus costume, an Easter Bunny costume or a clown costume.

The bill also requires that these conditions be placed on conditional releasees who meet the above criteria.

*Polygraph examinations:* Currently, pursuant to s. 948.30(2)(a), F.S., for a probationer or community controllee who committed a specified sexual offense on or after October 1, 1997, the court must order, as part of a treatment program, that the probationer or community controllee participate at least annually in polygraph examinations to obtain information necessary for risk management and treatment and to reduce the sex offender's denial mechanisms. The examination must be conducted by a polygrapher trained specifically in the use of the polygraph for the monitoring of sex offenders where available and must be paid for by the sex offender. The results of the polygraph examination cannot be used as evidence in court to prove that a violation of probation occurred.

HB 77 requires that the polygraph examiner be authorized by the DOC and approved by the court. The bill also provides that the results of the polygraph examination must be provided to the probationer or community controllee's probation officer and therapist.

---

<sup>17</sup> Offenses include sexual battery (s.794), lewd or lascivious offenses (s.800.04); sexual performance by a child (s. 827.071) and selling or buying of minors (s. 847.0145).

<sup>18</sup> The bill refers to the definition of the term "religious service" contained in s. 775.0861, F.S. The term is defined as "a religious ceremony, prayer, or other activity according to a form and order prescribed for worship, including a service related to a particular occasion."

*Evaluation and treatment of offenders on supervision:* Section 948.31, F.S. provides that the court must require a diagnosis and evaluation to determine the need of certain probationers or community controllees for treatment. If the court determines that such a need is established by the diagnosis and evaluation process, the court must require outpatient counseling as a term or condition of probation or community control for any person who was found or pled guilty to sexual battery, a lewd or lascivious offense, exploitation of a child or prostitution.

HB 77 amends this provision to remove reference to the court requiring a “diagnosis” of the probationer or community controllee and retains the reference to an “evaluation”. The bill also removes reference to the court requiring “outpatient” treatment and instead refers to “sex offender treatment”.

The bill alters the offenses for which this treatment can be ordered, if needed, to include any offense for which a person can be designated as a sexual predator or subject to registration as a sexual offender.

Current law provides that the treatment can be obtained from a community health center, a recognized social service agency providing mental health services, or a private mental health professional or through other professional counseling. The bill amends this to require that the treatment be obtained from a qualified practitioner specifically trained to treat sex offenders. The bill provides that the court must impose restrictions against contact with minors if sex offender treatment is recommended. The bill also amends s. 947.1405(7), F.S. to place these requirements in the relevant conditional release statutes.

*Search of registration information:*

Section 943.04342, F.S. provides that when the court places a defendant on misdemeanor probation, the public or private entity providing probation services must conduct a search of the probationer’s name or other identifying information against the registration information regarding sexual predators and sexual offenders maintained by FDLE. The bill requires that the probation service also must search the probationer’s name through the National Sex Offender Registry maintained by the United States Department of Justice.

**B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

Section 1. Creates s. 856.022, F.S., relating to loitering or prowling by certain offenders in close proximity to children.

Section 2. Amends s. 775.21, F.S., relating to Florida Sexual Predators Act.

Section 3. Amends s. 943.0435, F.S., relating to sexual offenders required to register with the department; penalty.

Section 4. Amends s. 943.04352, F.S., relating to search of registration information regarding sexual predators and sexual offenders required when placement on misdemeanor probation.

Section 5. Amends s. 944.606, F.S., relating to sexual offenders; notification upon release.

Section 6. Amends s. 944.607, F.S., relating to notification to Department of Law Enforcement of information on sexual offenders.

Section 7. Amends s. 947.1405, F.S., relating to conditional release program.

Section 8. Amends s. 948.30, F.S., relating to additional terms and conditions of probation or community control for certain sex offenses.

Section 9. Amends s. 948.31, F.S., relating to evaluation and treatment of sexual predators and offenders on probation or community control.

Section 10. Amends s. 985.481, F.S., relating to sexual offenders adjudicated delinquent; notification upon release.

Section 11. Amends s. 985.4815, F.S., relating to notification to Department of Law Enforcement of information on juvenile sexual offenders.

Section 12. Provides effective date of July 1, 2009.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

2. Expenditures:

### **B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

2. Expenditures:

The bill creates a first degree misdemeanor offense for a person who has been convicted of a specified sexual offenses to loiter or prowl within 300 feet of certain places. The bill will also make it a first degree misdemeanor for a person who has been convicted of certain sexual offenses to approach, contact or communicate with a minor child in a public park or playground or knowingly be present in a child care facility or a school with specified exceptions. This could have a county jail impact.

### **C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

See comments below relating to day care centers.

### **D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

On February 25, 2009, the Criminal Justice Impact Conference determined that this bill would have an insignificant prison bed impact on the Department of Corrections.

The bill provides that with specified exceptions, certain offenders cannot be present in a child care facility or school unless they given written notice to the school or day care. The bill provides if the offender is to be present in the vicinity of children, the offender must remain under direct supervision of a child care facility or school official or designated chaperone. This could place an additional workload on schools and day care centers that who provide such supervision.

## **III. COMMENTS**

### **A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because this bill does not appear to: require the counties or cities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

## 2. Other:

Florida statutes contain restrictions on where certain sex offenders are permitted to reside. Those restrictions only apply to those who committed a qualifying offense after the effective date of the legislation creating the restriction.<sup>19</sup> The first section of the bill would prohibit certain people who have previously committed a specified sexual offense from knowingly approaching, contacting or communicating with a child under 18 years of age in any public park building, any park or any playground unless the offender is a parent of a child who is accompanying them. This provision may be challenged as a violation of the ex post facto clause of the state or federal constitution.

The limited amount of relevant case law nationwide is primarily regarding statutes which restrict the residency of sexual offenders rather than statutes which restrict where sexual offenders can visit. Because statutes of this type are of recent origin, it is likely that further case law will develop in the future. In *Doe v. Miller*, 405 F.3d 700 (8th Cir. 2005) *cert denied* 126 S.Ct. 757 (2005), the court considered a challenge to an Iowa statute that prohibits a person convicted of certain sex offenses involving minors from residing within 2000 feet of a school or registered child care facility. The court recognized that the “restricted areas in many cities encompass the majority of the available housing in the city, thus leaving only limited areas within city limits available for sex offenders to establish a residence.” *Id.* at 705. The question in an ex post fact challenge is whether the law imposes retroactive punishment for a criminal act after it has been committed. The court applied a test set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *Smith v. Doe*, 123 S.Ct. 1140 (2003) where the Supreme Court upheld a challenge to an Alaska statute requiring sex offenders to register.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit summarized the test to be applied as follows:

Under this test, a court must first consider whether the legislature meant the statute in question to establish ‘civil’ proceedings. If the legislature intended criminal punishment, then the legislative intent controls the inquiry and the law is necessarily punitive. If, however, the legislature intended its law to be civil and nonpunitive, then we must determine whether the law is nevertheless, so punitive either in purpose or in effect as to negate the State’s nonpunitive intent. Only the clearest proof will transform what the legislature has denominated a civil regulatory measure into a criminal penalty.

*Miller*, 405 F.3d at 718. (citations and internal quotations omitted).

The court also considered the following factors that the Supreme Court described as “useful guideposts” in determining whether a law has a punitive effect:

Whether the law has been regarded in our history and traditions as punishment, whether it promotes the traditional aims of punishment, whether it imposes an affirmative disability or restraint, whether it has a rational connection to a nonpunitive purpose, and whether it is excessive with respect to that purpose.

*Id.* at 719.

The court considered each of these factors and rejected appellee’s claim that the statute violated the ex post facto clause. *See also, Iowa v. Seering*, 701 N.W.2d 655 (Iowa 2005)(Iowa Supreme Court case affirming statute and rejecting ex post facto claim).

### B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

### C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

*Section 1:* Section 1 of the bill would prohibit an offender who had been convicted of a specified sexual offense against a victim under the age of 18 from being present in a child care facility or school or on

<sup>19</sup> See ss. 794.065, F.S, 947.1405 and 948.30, F.S.



the real property of a school or day care while the school is in operation unless he or she provides written notice to the principal or child care facility owner. The bill provides if the offender is to be present in the vicinity of children, the offender must remain under direct supervision of a child care facility or school official or designated chaperone. This could have broad impact on where these offenders would be able to go without providing written notice and having a chaperone. Depending on how the phrase "while the school is in operation" is interpreted, an offender may be prohibited from going to these places, for example, without providing written notice and having a designated chaperone:

- a church that contains a day care center;
- a school parent-teacher conference;
- a school play or music program;
- a high school football game;
- an adult education program held at a high school in the evening.

The bill would also prohibit certain offenders from knowingly approaching, contacting or communicating with a child under the age of 18 in a park or playground unless the offender is a parent or guardian of a person less than 18 years of age who is also present within close proximity in the building or on the grounds. There is an exception if the offender is a parent or guardian of a person under 18 years of age who is also present. There is no exception for communication that would benefit the child such as a warning of impending danger.

The provisions of this section of the bill apparently apply to any person who has been convicted of one of a list of sexual offenses, regardless of how long ago the offense was committed. By contrast, the sexual offender and sexual predator statutes only apply to offenders who have been released from sanction for their offense after a certain date. For example, the sexual offender statute applies to offenders who have been released from sanction for the qualifying offense on or after October 1, 1997. This section of the bill will limit the behavior of people who are not required to be registered as a sexual predator or sexual offender and have never had such restrictions placed on them.

#### **IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**