

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

[2021s00234.hms]

BILL: CS/CS/SB 234

INTRODUCER: Rules Committee; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senator Book and others

SUBJECT: Registration of Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders

DATE: April 15, 2021

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 606605 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 606605 retains a provision of the Senate bill which amends s. 943.0435, F.S. (sexual offender registration) to clarify release from conviction sanctions for sexual offender reporting and registration purposes. This provision is intended to respond to an appellate court opinion that allows a person, otherwise required to register as a sexual offender, to forgo registration by refusing to pay any court-imposed fine. The amendment provides legislative findings and intent language that indicate that the person’s failure to pay a fine does not relieve the person of the requirement to register as a sexual offender. The amendment also reenacts numerous statutes that reference s. 943.0435, F.S.

The amendment also removes provisions of the Senate bill which do the following:

- Codify longstanding practice regarding calculation of days for the purpose of the definitions of “permanent residence,” “temporary residence,” and “transient residence”;
- Authorize sexual predators and sexual offenders to report vehicle information changes to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s online system and to report specified registration information through an authorized alternate method as provided by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
- Clarify a registration requirement relating to the timing of reporting of a change of residence to another state or jurisdiction or international travel;
- Specify that failure to report intended travel is punishable as provided; and
- Create a process for a person to petition for relief from registration if the person’s requirement to register is based solely upon a requirement to register in another state for an offense that is not similar to an offense requiring registration in this state and whose registration in that other state is held confidential, not for public release, and for criminal justice purposes only.