

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Rules

BILL: CS/CS/CS/SB 212

INTRODUCER: Rules Committee; Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senator McClain

SUBJECT: Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators

DATE: February 18, 2026 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vaughan</u>	<u>Stokes</u>	<u>CJ</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Davis</u>	<u>Cibula</u>	<u>JU</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	<u>Vaughan</u>	<u>Kruse</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/CS/CS/SB 212 amends ss. 775.215, F.S., 947.1405, F.S., and 948.30, F.S., relating to persons convicted of committing sexual offenses on or after July 1, 2026, or who change their residence on or after that date to:

- Prohibit a person who was convicted of specified sexual offenses in which the victim was younger than 16 years of age from residing within 1,000 feet of a school, child care facility, park, public swimming pool, or playground. The bill creates criminal penalties for violating this prohibition.
- Prohibit a person who is on probation,¹ community control,² or conditional release³ for committing a specified sexual offense in which the victim was under 18 from:
 - Living within 1,000 feet of a public swimming pool;
 - Working or volunteering at a public swimming pool; or
 - Visiting a public swimming pool, unless prior approval is obtained from the supervising officer.

The bill amends s. 856.022, F.S., relating to loitering and prowling by certain offenders, to revise restrictions and prohibited conduct. Specifically, the bill:

¹ Section 948.001(8), F.S.

² Section 948.001(3), F.S.

³ Section 947.1405, F.S.

- Increases the restricted distance for loitering and prowling by such sex offenders from 300 feet to 500 feet of places where children congregate.
- Revises the prohibition on contact with children to clarify that an offender may not knowingly contact, communicate with, or approach with the intent to contact or communicate with a person younger than 18 years of age in any public park, playground, or public swimming pool.
- Clarifies that written notification required by sex offenders who intend to be present at a child care facility or school must include that the person has been convicted of a specified sex offense and intends to be present at the school or child care facility.
- Adds and revises exceptions to the prohibition on being present at child care facilities or schools, by:
 - Revising the exception to the crime for picking up or dropping of a child only applies if the person is a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian.
 - Adds an exception to the crime if the person is attending religious services.

The bill amends s. 901.15, F.S., to authorize a law enforcement officer to arrest a person without a warrant if there is probable cause to believe the person violated s. 856.022, F.S., by knowingly:

- Contacting, communicating with, or approaching with the intent to contact or communicate with a person younger than 18 years of age in any park building or on real property comprising any park, playground, or public swimming pool; or
- Being present in any child care facility or school containing students in prekindergarten through grade 12 or on real property comprising a child care facility or school containing any students in prekindergarten through grade 12 when the child care facility or school is in operation.

The bill amends s. 943.04351, F.S., to require a state agency or governmental subdivision to conduct a search of a person's name or other identifying information against the registration information for sexual predators and sexual offenders on a national or state website prior to a person's employment, regardless of compensation, at a public swimming pool.

The bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact (unquantifiable increase in Prison Beds) on the Department of Corrections. *See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.*

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Sexual Predators and Offenders

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is the state agency responsible for Florida's sex offender registry. The information contained in the sex offender registry is reported directly to the FDLE by the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and law enforcement officials.⁴ Florida's sexual

⁴ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *Sexual Offender and Predator System*, available at <https://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/sops/search.jsf>, (last visited on January 14, 2026).

offender and sexual predator registration laws were implemented in 1993 and 1997.⁵ The sex offender registry database is a statewide system that collects and disseminates sex offender information to the public and law enforcement agencies through the Sexual Offender Predator System (SOPS). The designation of a person as a sexual offender is not a sentence or a punishment but is simply the status of the offender which is the result of a conviction for having committed certain crimes.⁶

Florida's Sexual Predator and Sexual Offender Registration Laws

Florida law requires registration of any person who has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a specified sex offense or offenses and who meets other statutory criteria that qualify the person for designation as a sexual predator or classification as a sexual offender.⁷ The registration laws also require reregistration and provide for public and community notification of certain information about sexual predators and sexual offenders. The laws span several different chapters and numerous statutes,⁸ and are implemented through the combined efforts of the FDLE, all Florida sheriffs, the DOC, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Children and Families.

A person is designated as a sexual predator by a court if the person:⁹

- Has been convicted of a qualifying capital, life, or first degree felony sex offense committed on or after October 1, 1993;¹⁰
- Has been convicted of a qualifying sex offense committed on or after October 1, 1993, and has a prior conviction for a qualifying sex offense; or
- Was found to be a sexually violent predator in a civil commitment proceeding.¹¹

A person is classified as a sexual offender if the person:¹²

- Has been convicted of a qualifying sex offense and has been released on or after October 1, 1997, from the sanction imposed for that offense;
- Establishes or maintains a Florida residence and is subject to registration, community or public notification in another state or jurisdiction, or is in the custody, control, or under the supervision of, another state or jurisdiction as a result of a conviction for a qualifying sex offense; or
- On or after July 1, 2007, has been adjudicated delinquent of a qualifying sexual battery or lewd offense committed when the juvenile was 14 years of age or older.¹³

⁵ Sections 775.21, and 943.0435, F.S.

⁶ *State v. McKenzie*, 331 So.3d 666 (Fla. 2021).

⁷ Sections 775.21 and 943.0435, F.S.

⁸ Sections 775.21-775.25, 943.043-943.0437, 944.606, 944.607, and 985.481-985.4815, F.S.

⁹ Section 775.21(4), F.S.

¹⁰ Examples of qualifying sex offenses are sexual battery by an adult on a child under 12 years of age (s. 794.011(2)(a), F.S.) and lewd battery by an adult on a child 12 years of age or older but under 16 years of age (s. 800.04(4)(a), F.S.).

¹¹ Sections 775.21(4) and (5), F.S., The Jimmy Ryce Involuntary Civil Commitment for Sexually Violent Predators' Treatment and Care Act, part V, ch. 394, F.S., provides for the civil confinement of a group of sexual offenders who, due to their criminal history and the presence of mental abnormality, are found likely to engage in future acts of sexual violence if they are not confined in a secure facility for long-term control, care, and treatment.

¹² Section 943.0435, F.S.

¹³ Sections 943.0435(1)(h) and 985.4815(1)(h), F.S.; Sections 944.606(1)(f) and 944.607(1)(f), F.S., which address sexual offenders in the custody of or under the DOC's supervision, also define the term "sexual offender."

Sex Offender Recidivism

Sex crimes have historically been difficult to measure due to the nature of the crimes, underreporting, and timeframes surrounding the crimes. These factors contribute to the complex nature of measuring offenses and rates of recidivism. Sexual recidivism rates vary widely, ranging from 5% after 3 years to 24% after 15 years.¹⁴

The DOC defines recidivism “as a return to prison, as the result of either a new conviction or a violation of post-prison supervision, within three years of their prison release date.” The 2025 Recidivism Report reflects a 23.3% recidivism rate for inmates incarcerated with the primary offense of a sexual/lewd behavior as follows:

- 8.4% of inmates reoffend within 12 months after release.
- 8.8% of inmates reoffend 13 to 24 months after release.
- 6.1% of inmates reoffend 25 to 36 months after release.¹⁵

Residency Restrictions for Persons Convicted of Certain Sexual Offenses

A person who has been convicted in Florida of committing a specified sexual offense that occurred on or after October 1, 2004, or who was convicted of committing an offense in another jurisdiction that is similar to a specified sexual offense that occurred on or after May 26, 2010, regardless of whether adjudication has been withheld, in which the victim of the offense was younger than 16 years of age may not reside within 1,000 feet of any:

- School;¹⁶
- Child-care facility;¹⁷
- Park;¹⁸ or

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking, *Chapter 5: Adult Sex Offender Recidivism*, available at <https://smart.ojp.gov/somapi/chapter-5-adult-sex-offender-recidivism> (last visited Feb. 7, 2026).

¹⁵ Florida Department of Corrections, *Florida Prison Recidivism Report: Releases from 2010 to 2022*, available at <https://fdcc-media.ccplatform.net/content/download/42673/file/Recidivism%20Report%202020%20Cohort.pdf>, 8 (last visited Feb. 7, 2026).

¹⁶ Section 775.215(2)(c), F.S. “School” means an organization of students for instructional purposes on an elementary, middle or junior high school, secondary or high school, or other public school level authorized under rules of the State Board of Education, and includes a private school as defined in s. 1002.01, F.S., a voluntary prekindergarten program as described in s. 1002.53(3), F.S., a public school as described in s. 402.3025(1), F.S., the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Florida Virtual School established under s. s. 1002.37, F.S., but does not include facilities designated exclusively to the education of adults. s. 775.215(1)(d), F.S.

¹⁷ “Child care facility” means any child care center or child care arrangement which provides child care for more than five children unrelated to the operator and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit. The following are not included:

- Public schools and nonpublic schools and their integral programs, except as provided in s. 402.3025, F.S.;
- Summer camps having children in full-time residence;
- Summer day camps;
- Bible schools normally conducted during vacation periods; and
- Operators of transient establishments, as defined in ch. 509, F.S., which provide child care services solely for the guests of their establishment or resort, provided that all child care personnel of the establishment are screened according to the level 2 screening requirements of ch. 435, F.S. and s. 775.215(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁸ “Park” means all public and private property specifically designated as being used for recreational purposes and where children regularly congregate. s. 775.215(1)(b), F.S.

- Playground.¹⁹

A person does not violate these residency restrictions and may not be forced to relocate if he or she is living in a residence that meets the restrictions and a school, child care facility, park, or playground is subsequently established within 1,000 feet of his or her residence.²⁰

Specified sexual offenses that subject a person to residency restrictions include the following, provided the victim of the offense was younger than 16 years old:

- Sexual battery under s. 794.011, F.S.
- Lewd or lascivious battery, molestation, conduct, or exhibition under s. 800.04, F.S.
- Use or promotion of a child in a sexual performance or possessing child pornography under s. 827.071, F.S.
- Lewd or lascivious exhibition using a computer under s. 847.0135(5), F.S.
- Selling or buying minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct under s. 847.0145, F.S.²¹

A violation is punishable as a:

- Third degree felony²² if the underlying sexual offense was classified as a first degree felony²³ or higher; or
- First degree misdemeanor²⁴ if the underlying sexual offense was classified as a second²⁵ or third degree felony.²⁶

A large number of cities and counties have passed local ordinances designed to restrict where people who have been convicted of a sexual offense may live. Generally, the ordinances extend the distance from 1,000 feet to 2,500 feet. Many of the ordinances also prohibit an offender from living within 2,500 feet of places such as libraries, churches, and bus stops which are not included in the state statute.

The Lauren Book Child Safety Ordinance, deems it unlawful for any person that has established residency on or after November 25, 2005, and has been convicted of a sexual battery, lewd and lascivious act on/in the presence of persons under age 16, sexual performance by a child, sexual acts transmitted over computer, or selling or buying of minors for portrayal in sexually explicit

¹⁹ “Playground” means a designated independent area in the community or neighborhood that is designated solely for children and has one or more play structures. s. 775.215(1)(c), F.S.

²⁰ Section 775.215(3)(a), F.S.

²¹ Section 775.215(2)(a), F.S.

²² A felony of the third degree is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 5 years, as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.083, F.S.

²³ A first degree felony is generally punishable by not more than 30 years in state prison and a fine not exceeding \$10,000. When specifically provided by statute, a first degree felony may be punished by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

²⁴ A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by not more than one year in a county jail and a fine not exceeding \$1,000. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

²⁵ A second degree felony is punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 30 years and a \$10,000 fine. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

²⁶ Section 775.215(3)(b).

conduct, in which the victim of the offense was less than sixteen (16) years of age, or similar law of another jurisdiction, to reside within 2,500 feet of any school within Miami-Dade County.²⁷

In April 2025, Clewiston city council passed an ordinance requiring sex offenders to live at least 2,500 feet from schools, parks, and playgrounds.²⁸

Probation and Community Control

Probation is a form of community supervision requiring specified contacts with a probation officer and other terms and conditions.²⁹ Community control is a form of intensive supervised custody of an offender who remains in the community, but whose freedom is restricted within the home, community, or noninstitutional residential placement, and includes specific sanctions and monitoring by probation officers with restricted caseloads.³⁰

Several standard conditions of probation or community control apply automatically, including requirements to report to a probation officer as directed and to live without violating any law.³¹ The court may also impose special conditions, such as community service hours, regular drug or alcohol testing, no contact orders, and treatment programs.³² Failure to meet any condition of supervision is a violation of probation or community control (VOP).

Generally, upon a finding that an offender violated probation or community control, the court may revoke, modify, or continue supervision.³³ If the court revokes supervision, it may impose any sentence that was permissible at the offender's initial sentencing.³⁴

If a violent felony offender of special concern (VFOSC)³⁵ commits a VOP and the court finds the VFOSC poses a danger to the community, the court must revoke probation and sentence the offender up to the statutory maximum, or longer if permitted by law.³⁶

When a person is arrested for committing a crime, he or she is generally entitled to pretrial release on reasonable conditions under the Florida Constitution.³⁷ However, a person taken into custody for a VOP does not have a constitutional right to release pending the disposition of the

²⁷ Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, *Sexual Predator and Offender Registration*, available at https://www.miamidade.gov/global/service.page?Mduid_service=ser1522959874956151 (last visited Feb. 7, 2026).

²⁸ Fox 4 Southwest Florida, *'Not welcome here': Clewiston passes law to keep sex offenders farther away from schools*, available at https://www.fox4now.com/clewiston/not-welcome-here-clewiston-passes-law-to-keep-sex-offenders-farther-away-from-schools#google_vignette (last visited Feb. 7, 2026).

²⁹ Section 948.001(8), F.S.

³⁰ Section 948.001(3), F.S.

³¹ Section 948.03(1), F.S.

³² Section 948.03(2), F.S.

³³ Section 948.06(2)(a), F.S.

³⁴ Section 948.06(2)(b), F.S.

³⁵ A VFOSC is an offender who commits a specified qualifying offense or is in a special status like habitual violent felony offender and meets other specified criteria. Examples of qualified offenses include murder, kidnapping, and sexual battery. For a complete list of criteria, see s. 948.06(8), F.S.

³⁶ Section 948.06(8)(e)2.a., F.S.

³⁷ Art. I, s. 14, Fla. Const. Exceptions include when a person is charged with a capital offense or offense punishable by life and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, or if no conditions can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm.

VOP.³⁸ If the offender qualifies as a VFOSC, the court is prohibited from granting pretrial release.³⁹

Probation

The court determines the terms and conditions of probation.⁴⁰ Section 948.03, F.S., provides standard conditions of probation;⁴¹ however, a court may sentence an offender to special terms and conditions at the time of sentencing. Standard conditions of probation include:

- Reporting to the probation officer as directed.
- Permitting the probation officer to visit the probationer at his or her home.
- Working faithfully at suitable employment, when possible.
- Residing at a specified place.
- Living without violating the law.
- Paying restitution to any aggrieved party for the damage or loss caused by a probationer's offense.
- Being prohibited from possessing, carrying, or owning a firearm or weapon, without the probation officer's consent.
- Being prohibited from using intoxicants to excess or possessing any drugs or narcotics.⁴²

Community Control

In addition to the standard conditions which apply to normal probationers, an offender on community control must:

- Maintain specified contact with his or her parole or probation officer;
- Be confined to an agreed-upon residence during any hours he or she is away from work or public service activities;
- Complete mandatory public service; and
- Be supervised by the DOC by means of an electronic monitoring device or system.⁴³

Probation or Community Control for Persons Convicted of Certain Sexual Offenses

A court must impose additional conditions of supervision on a person who is sentenced to probation or community control after being convicted of committing, or attempting, soliciting, or conspiring⁴⁴ to commit one of the following sexual offenses:

- Human trafficking using coercion or human trafficking of a child under 18 for commercial sexual activity under s. 787.06(3)(b), (d), (f), and (g), F.S.;⁴⁵
- Sexual battery under ch. 794, F.S.;
- Lewd or lascivious battery, molestation, conduct, or exhibition under s. 800.04, F.S.;

³⁸ *Bernhardt v. State*, 288 So. 2d 490, 497 (Fla. 1974).

³⁹ Section 903.0351(1)(a), F.S.

⁴⁰ Section 948.03, F.S.

⁴¹ Section 948.03(1)(a-1), F.S. Standard conditions include, in part, reporting to the probation officer as directed, permitting visits by the probation officer, work at suitable employment, and live without violating any law.

⁴² Section 948.03(1), F.S.

⁴³ Section 948.101(3), F.S.

⁴⁴ Section 948.30(1), F.S.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

- Use or promotion of a child in a sexual performance or possessing child pornography under s. 827.071, F.S.;
- Lewd or lascivious exhibition over the Internet under s. 847.0135, F.S.; and
- Selling or buying minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct under s. 847.0145, F.S.⁴⁶

Conditional Release

Conditional release requires mandatory post-prison supervision for inmates who are sentenced for certain violent crimes and who have served a prior felony commitment at a state or federal correctional institution, or who are sentenced as a habitual offender, violent habitual offender, violent career criminal, or court designated sexual predator. Unlike parole, conditional release is not discretionary release.⁴⁷ Conditional release is a form of probation in which a person who has been released from prison after completing the incarcerative portion of his or her sentence remains under close supervision of the DOC.⁴⁸ The determination of whether an inmate is subject to conditional release supervision after his or her release depends on the offense committed by the inmate, the inmate's prior criminal history, and the date the inmate committed the offense.

If a person violates the terms and conditions of his or her conditional release, the person is arrested and held pending a review by the Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR). If the FCOR determines that the person committed a violation, the FCOR may either revoke his or her conditional release and return the person to prison to serve the remainder of his or her sentence, reinstate the conditional release order, or enter another order as the FCOR deems appropriate, such as sentencing the person to serve the remainder of his or her prison sentence in a county detention facility in lieu of a state prison.⁴⁹

Registration Search

A state agency or governmental subdivision must, before making any decision to appoint or employ a person to work, whether for compensation or as a volunteer, at any park, playground, day care center, or other place where children regularly congregate, conduct a search of that person's name or other identifying information against the registration information regarding sexual predators and sexual offenders through the Dru Sjojin National Sexual Offender Public Website maintained by the United States Department of Justice.⁵⁰

Public Swimming Pools

"Public swimming pool" or "public pool" means a watertight structure of concrete, masonry, or other approved materials which is located either indoors or outdoors, used for bathing or swimming by humans, and filled with a filtered and disinfected water supply, together with buildings, appurtenances, and equipment used in connection therewith.⁵¹

⁴⁶ Section 948.30, F.S.

⁴⁷ Florida Commission on Offender Review, *Conditional Release*, available at <https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/release/release-types#conditionalRelease> (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁴⁸ Section 947.1405, F.S.

⁴⁹ Section 947.141, F.S.

⁵⁰ Section 943.04351, F.S.

⁵¹ Section 514.011, F.S.

A public swimming pool or public pool also includes a conventional pool, spa-type pool, wading pool, special purpose pool, or water recreation attraction, to which admission may be gained with or without payment of a fee and includes, but is not limited to, pools operated by or serving camps, churches, cities, counties, day care centers, group home facilities for eight or more clients, health spas, institutions, parks, state agencies, schools, subdivisions, or the cooperative living-type projects of five or more living units, such as apartments, boardinghouses, hotels, mobile home parks, motels, recreational vehicle parks, and townhouses.⁵²

Currently, there is no statutory provision that specifically prohibits registered sex offenders from accessing public swimming pools or public pools.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Residency Requirements for Certain Sex Offenders

The bill amends s. 775.215, F.S., to prohibit sex offenders from residing within 1,000 feet of any school, child care facility, park, public swimming pool, or playground if:

- He or she has been convicted of committing specified sexual offenses⁵³ in Florida, or an offense in another jurisdiction that is similar to a specified sexual offense, regardless of whether adjudication has been withheld; and
- The victim was younger than 16 years of age.

This residency requirement applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2026, and to individuals who change their residence on or after that date. A person who is subject to the residency restrictions in the bill would not be required to move if he or she is living in a residence that meets existing residency requirements and a public swimming pool is subsequently established within 1,000 feet of his or her residence. Violations of these residency restrictions constitute a third-degree felony if the underlying conviction was a felony of the first degree or higher, and a first degree misdemeanor if the underlying conviction was a felony of the second or third degree.

The bill amends s. 948.30, F.S., to require any person who has been convicted of committing a specified sex offense on or after July 1, 2026, involving a victim who is younger than 18 years of age and who is subject to conditional release supervision, in addition to all other existing requirements and restrictions, to also be prohibited from:

- Living within 1,000 feet of a public swimming pool. The person would not be required to move if he or she is living in a residence that meets existing residency requirements and a public swimming pool is subsequently established within 1,000 feet of his or her residence.
- Working for pay or volunteering at a public swimming pool.
- Visiting a public swimming pool, unless prior approval is obtained from the supervising officer.

The bill amends s. 947.1405, F.S., to require that any person who has been convicted of committing specified sexual offenses committed on or after July 1, 2026, involving a victim who

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ Sections 794.011, F.S., Sexual Battery, 800.04, F.S., Lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons younger than 16 years of age, 827.071, F.S., Sexual performance by a child, 847.0135(5), F.S., Computer pornography, or 847.0145, F.S., Selling or buying of minors.

is younger than 18 years of age and who is serving conditional release supervision, in addition to all other existing requirements and restrictions, to also be prohibited from:

- Living within 1,000 feet of a public swimming pool. The person would not be required to move if he or she is living in a residence that meets existing residency requirements and a public swimming pool is subsequently established within 1,000 feet of his or her residence.
- Working for pay or volunteering at a public swimming pool.
- Visiting a public swimming pool, unless prior approval is obtained from the supervising officer.

The bill defines the term “public swimming pool” as a structure that is located either indoors or outdoors and used for recreational bathing or swimming by humans. The term includes a conventional pool, spa-type pool, wading pool, special purpose pool, spray pool, splash pad, or other water recreation attraction, to which admission may be gained with or without payment of a fee, regardless of whether entry to the swimming pool is limited by a gate or other method of controlling access. The term includes swimming pools operated by or serving subdivisions, apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, or townhouses, or any pool operated by a governmental entity which is held open to the public. The term does not include a swimming pool at a private single-family residence, hotel, motel, or recreational vehicle park, or a swimming pool where the operator prohibits the use of such pool by persons younger than 18 years of age.

Loitering and Prowling by Sex Offenders

The bill amends s. 856.022, F.S., relating to loitering and prowling by certain offenders, to revise restrictions and prohibited conduct.

Sex offenders who commit loitering and prowling within a specified distance of a place where children are congregating commit a first degree misdemeanor. The bill increases the distance for loitering and prowling by sex offenders from 300 feet to 500 feet.

The bill revises the crime certain sex offenders commit by approaching, contacting, or communicating with a child in specified places. Such a sex offender may not knowingly contact, or communicate with or approach with the intent to contact or communicate with a person younger than 18 years of age in any public park, playground, or public swimming pool. This prohibition on contacting, communicating with, or approaching a person younger than 18 years of age does not apply when the minor is the offender’s family or household member.

Additionally, it is a crime for certain sex offenders to be present at child care facilities or schools, unless they provide certain notification and remain supervised. The bill specifies that written notification must state that he or she is convicted of a specified sex offense and that he or she intends to be present at the school or child care facility.

The bill adds and revises exceptions to the prohibition on being present at child care facilities or schools, by:

- Revising the exception to the crime for picking up or dropping of a child only applies if the person is a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian.
- Adds an exception to the crime if the person is attending religious services.

For purposes of loitering and prowling by a sex offender, the bill defines the term “public swimming pool” as a structure which is located either indoors or outdoors and used for recreational bathing or swimming by humans, including the area immediately surrounding the structure. The term includes a conventional pool, spa-type pool, wading pool, special purpose pool, spray pool, splash pad, or other water recreation attraction, to which admission may be gained with or without payment of a fee, regardless of whether entry to the swimming pool is limited by a gate or other method of controlling access. The term also includes, but is not limited to, pools operated by or serving camps, churches, governmental entities, day care centers, parks, schools, subdivisions, apartments, condominiums, hotels, motels, mobile home parks, recreational vehicle parks, and townhouses. The term does not include a swimming pool at a private single family residence or a swimming pool where the operator prohibits the use of such pool by persons younger than 18 years of age.

The bill amends s. 901.15, F.S., to authorize a law enforcement officer to arrest a person without a warrant if there is probable cause to believe the person violated s. 856.022, F.S., by knowingly:

- Contacting, communicating with, or approaching with the intent to contact or communicate with a person younger than 18 years of age in any park building or on real property comprising any park, playground, or public swimming pool; or
- Being present in any child care facility or school containing students in prekindergarten through grade 12 or on real property comprising a child care facility or school containing any students in prekindergarten through grade 12 when the child care facility or school is in operation.

Required Searches for Working or Volunteering

The bill amends s. 943.04351, F.S., to require a state agency or governmental subdivision, prior to making a decision to appoint or employ a person to work or volunteer at a public swimming pool, to conduct a search of the person’s name or other identifying information against the registration information regarding sexual predators and sexual offenders through the Dru Sjodin National Sexual Offender Public Website maintained by the United States Department of Justice. However, if the website is unavailable, a search is required of the registration information regarding sexual predators and sexual offenders maintained by the FDLE. A state agency or governmental subdivision is not required to conduct a search if the position requires a state and national criminal history background check.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, s. 18, of the State Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

Under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 9 of the Florida Constitution, restrictions that significantly limit where an individual may live or work may be challenged as infringing on liberty interests.

The bill adds additional residential requirements on sexual offenders to further define allowable living arrangements. Restrictions were addressed in *Doe v. Snyder*,⁵⁴ which found Michigan's residency restrictions punitive when applied retroactively. Florida courts, such as in *State v. Robinson*,⁵⁵ have generally upheld registration requirements as non-punitive but recognize that significant limitations on residency may implicate constitutional concerns.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The Department of Corrections supervises 6,124 sex offenders, of whom approximately 2,992 could be affected by this bill. The Department states in its agency analysis that 12,985 inmates, when released, would be impacted by the bill. The increased residential restrictions could make it difficult to obtain stable housing. Currently, 334 supervised sex offenders are classified by the Department as homeless and the number will likely increase if this bill takes effect.

The Department also states that the expanded restrictions pertaining to public pools and public bathing spaces could further reduce available housing. This may increase the risk that some offenders will abscond because they are unable to secure housing in compliance with the restrictions.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ *Doe v. Snyder*, 834 F.3d 696 (6th Cir. 2016).

⁵⁵ *State v. Robinson*, 873 So. 2d 1205 (Fla. 2004).

⁵⁶ Florida Department of Corrections, *2026 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 212*, (Oct. 17, 2025)

<https://abar.laspbs.state.fl.us/ABAR/Document.aspx?id=36184&yr=2026> (See SB0212_DOC 2025-11-06.docx.) Note that the DOC analysis was prepared before the term "public bathing space" was removed from the bill.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) and the Criminal Justice Impact Conference, which provides the final, official estimate of the prison bed impact, if any, of legislation, has determined that the bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact (unquantifiable increase in prison beds) on the Department of Corrections (DOC). The EDR provides the following additional information regarding its estimate:

Per the DOC, in FY 24-25, there were 5,589 offenders returned to prison for conditional release, probation, and community control violations. As of October 10, 2025, there was a population of 6,124 offenders under supervision who could potentially be impacted by this new language, though it is not known how many would commit future violations under this language.⁵⁷

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 775.215, 856.022, 901.15, 943.04351, 947.1405, and 948.30

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS/CS/CS by Rules on February 17, 2026:

The committee substitute revises the crime of loitering and prowling by sex offenders by providing that it is unlawful for certain sex offenders to contact, communicate with, or approach with intent to contact or communicate with, a child in any park building, park, playground or swimming pool. The amendment removes the crime created for sex offenders visiting public pools, parks, playgrounds and child care facilities.

CS/CS by Judiciary on February 10, 2026:

The committee substitute:

- Deletes the definition and all references to “public bathing space.”
- Revises the definition of “public swimming pool” in the residency restriction provision to include pools operated by a county, city, or municipality, but to exclude pools at a hotel, motel, or recreational vehicle park.

⁵⁷ Office of Economic and Demographic Research, *SB 212- Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators*, (on file with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice).

- Deletes the restriction prohibiting an offender from being “within 200 feet” of certain areas and replaces the prohibition by stating that the offender may not be “on the premises” of those areas. The warrantless arrest provision is similarly revised.
- Clarifies that a person who intends to be present at certain restricted locations must notify the specified personnel that he or she has a “conviction” of certain offenses, and not that he or she is a sexual offender or predator.
- Requires a supervising officer to deny a conditional releasee’s or probationer’s request to visit a public swimming pool unless specific exemptions apply.

CS by Criminal Justice on January 20, 2026:

The committee substitute:

- Narrows the definition of “public bathing place” and “public pool.”
- Applies the provisions of the bill prospectively to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2026, and to individuals who change their residence on or after that date.
- Creates s. 775.216, F.S., which establishes a 200-foot restricted zone around schools, child care facilities, parks, public swimming pools, public bathing places, and playgrounds, and prohibits certain offenders from visiting or being within these areas, with specified exceptions such as attending religious services, voting, or conducting official business. A violation is a first degree misdemeanor.

B. Amendments:

None.