



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 799

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1500

Senate, April 29, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRANTS' ADDRESSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 54-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) (1) Any person who has been convicted or found not guilty by
4 reason of mental disease or defect of a criminal offense against a victim
5 who is a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense, and is released into the
6 community on or after October 1, 1998, shall, within three days
7 following such release or, if such person is in the custody of the
8 Commissioner of Correction, at such time prior to release as the
9 commissioner shall direct, and whether or not such person's place of
10 residence is in this state, register such person's name, identifying factors,
11 criminal history record, residence address and electronic mail address,
12 instant message address or other similar Internet communication
13 identifier, if any, with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
14 Public Protection, on such forms and in such locations as the

15 commissioner shall direct, and shall maintain such registration for ten
16 years from the date of such person's release into the community, except
17 that any person who has one or more prior convictions of any such
18 offense or who is convicted of a violation of subdivision (2) of subsection
19 (a) of section 53a-70 shall maintain such registration for life. Prior to
20 accepting a plea of guilty or nolo contendere from a person with respect
21 to a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a nonviolent
22 sexual offense, the court shall [(1)] (A) inform the person that the entry
23 of a finding of guilty after acceptance of the plea will subject the person
24 to the registration requirements of this section, and [(2)] (B) determine
25 that the person fully understands the consequences of the plea. If any
26 person who is subject to registration under this section changes such
27 person's name, such person shall, without undue delay, notify the
28 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in writing
29 of the new name. If any person who is subject to registration under this
30 section changes such person's address, such person shall, without
31 undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
32 Public Protection in writing of the new address and, if the new address
33 is in another state, such person shall also register with an appropriate
34 agency in that state, provided that state has a registration requirement
35 for such offenders. If any person who is subject to registration under this
36 section establishes or changes an electronic mail address, instant
37 message address or other similar Internet communication identifier,
38 such person shall, without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of
39 Emergency Services and Public Protection in writing of such identifier.
40 If any person who is subject to registration under this section is
41 employed at, carries on a vocation at or is a student at a trade or
42 professional institution or institution of higher learning in this state,
43 such person shall, without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of
44 Emergency Services and Public Protection of such status and of any
45 change in such status. If any person who is subject to registration under
46 this section is employed in another state, carries on a vocation in another
47 state or is a student in another state, such person shall, without undue
48 delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
49 Protection and shall also register with an appropriate agency in that

50 state, provided that state has a registration requirement for such
51 offenders.

52 (2) During such period of registration, each registrant shall (A)
53 complete and return or submit forms mailed to such registrant, as
54 provided in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as
55 amended by this act, to verify such registrant's residence address, and
56 [shall] (B) submit to the retaking of a photographic image upon request
57 of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

58 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
59 the court may exempt any person who has been convicted or found not
60 guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of a violation of subdivision
61 (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-71 from the registration requirements
62 of this section if the court finds that such person was under nineteen
63 years of age at the time of the offense and that registration is not
64 required for public safety.

65 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
66 the court may exempt any person who has been convicted or found not
67 guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of a violation of subdivision
68 (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-73a or subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of
69 subsection (a) of section 53a-189a, from the registration requirements of
70 this section if the court finds that registration is not required for public
71 safety.

72 (d) Any person who files an application with the court to be
73 exempted from the registration requirements of this section pursuant to
74 subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall, pursuant to subsection (b) of
75 section 54-227, notify the Office of Victim Services and the Victim
76 Services Unit within the Department of Correction of the filing of such
77 application. The Office of Victim Services or the Victim Services Unit
78 within the Department of Correction, or both, shall, pursuant to section
79 54-230 or 54-230a, notify any victim who has requested notification of
80 the filing of such application. Prior to granting or denying such
81 application, the court shall consider any information or statement
82 provided by the victim.

83 (e) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1) of
84 subsection (a) of this section, subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
85 subsection (a) of this section or subsection (b) of this section, or
86 intentionally violates the provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision
87 (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony,
88 except that, if such person violates the provisions of this section by
89 failing to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
90 Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or status
91 or another reportable event, such person shall be subject to such penalty
92 if such failure continues for five business days.

93 (2) Any person who without intent violates the provisions of
94 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
95 have committed an infraction, except that, if such person did not receive
96 the residence address verification form from the Department of
97 Emergency Services and Public Protection, such person may request
98 such form from the department to be mailed to such person, in which
99 case not later than twenty days after such form is postmarked, the
100 person shall return or submit such form pursuant to subdivision (1) or
101 (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this act, or such
102 person shall have committed an infraction.

103 Sec. 2. Section 54-252 of the general statutes is repealed and the
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

105 (a) (1) Any person who has been convicted or found not guilty by
106 reason of mental disease or defect of a sexually violent offense, and [(1)]
107 (A) is released into the community on or after October 1, 1988, and prior
108 to October 1, 1998, and resides in this state, shall, on October 1, 1998, or
109 within three days of residing in this state, whichever is later, or [(2)] (B)
110 is released into the community on or after October 1, 1998, shall, within
111 three days following such release or, if such person is in the custody of
112 the Commissioner of Correction, at such time prior to release as the
113 commissioner shall direct, register such person's name, identifying
114 factors and criminal history record, documentation of any treatment
115 received by such person for mental abnormality or personality disorder,

116 and such person's residence address and electronic mail address, instant
117 message address or other similar Internet communication identifier, if
118 any, with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
119 Protection on such forms and in such locations as said commissioner
120 shall direct, and shall maintain such registration for life. Prior to
121 accepting a plea of guilty or nolo contendere from a person with respect
122 to a sexually violent offense, the court shall [(A)] (i) inform the person
123 that the entry of a finding of guilty after acceptance of the plea will
124 subject the person to the registration requirements of this section, and
125 [(B)] (ii) determine that the person fully understands the consequences
126 of the plea. If any person who is subject to registration under this section
127 changes such person's name, such person shall, without undue delay,
128 notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
129 in writing of the new name. If any person who is subject to registration
130 under this section changes such person's address, such person shall,
131 without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services
132 and Public Protection in writing of the new address and, if the new
133 address is in another state, such person shall also register with an
134 appropriate agency in that state, provided that state has a registration
135 requirement for such offenders. If any person who is subject to
136 registration under this section establishes or changes an electronic mail
137 address, instant message address or other similar Internet
138 communication identifier, such person shall, without undue delay,
139 notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
140 in writing of such identifier. If any person who is subject to registration
141 under this section is employed at, carries on a vocation at or is a student
142 at a trade or professional institution or institution of higher learning in
143 this state, such person shall, without undue delay, notify the
144 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such
145 status and of any change in such status. If any person who is subject to
146 registration under this section is employed in another state, carries on a
147 vocation in another state or is a student in another state, such person
148 shall, without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency
149 Services and Public Protection and shall also register with an
150 appropriate agency in that state, provided that state has a registration

151 requirement for such offenders.

152 (2) During such period of registration, each registrant shall (A)
153 complete and return or submit forms mailed to such registrant, as
154 provided in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as
155 amended by this act, to verify such registrant's residence address, and
156 [shall] (B) submit to the retaking of a photographic image upon request
157 of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

158 (b) Any person who has been subject to the registration requirements
159 of section 54-102r of the general statutes, revised to January 1, 1997, as
160 amended by section 1 of public act 97-183, shall, not later than three
161 working days after October 1, 1998, register under this section and
162 thereafter comply with the provisions of sections 54-102g and 54-250 to
163 54-258a, inclusive, except that any person who was convicted or found
164 not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of an offense that is
165 classified as a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor under
166 subdivision (2) of section 54-250 and that is subject to a ten-year period
167 of registration under section 54-251, as amended by this act, shall
168 maintain such registration for ten years from the date of such person's
169 release into the community.

170 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this
171 section, during the initial registration period following October 1, 1998,
172 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may
173 phase in completion of the registration procedure for persons released
174 into the community prior to said date over the first three months
175 following said date, and no such person shall be prosecuted for failure
176 to register under this section during those three months provided such
177 person complies with the directives of said commissioner regarding
178 registration procedures.

179 (d) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1) of
180 subsection (a) of this section, subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
181 subsection (a) of this section or subsection (b) of this section, or
182 intentionally violates the provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision
183 (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony,

184 except that, if such person violates the provisions of this section by
185 failing to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
186 Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or status
187 or another reportable event, such person shall be subject to such penalty
188 if such failure continues for five business days.

189 (2) Any person who without intent violates the provisions of
190 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
191 have committed an infraction, except that, if such person did not receive
192 the residence address verification form from the Department of
193 Emergency Services and Public Protection, such person may request
194 such form from the department to be mailed to such person, in which
195 case not later than twenty days after such form is postmarked, the
196 person shall return or submit such form pursuant to subdivision (1) or
197 (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this act, or such
198 person shall have committed an infraction.

199 Sec. 3. Section 54-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the
200 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

201 (a) Any person who has been convicted or found not guilty by reason
202 of mental disease or defect in any other state, in a federal or military
203 court or in any foreign jurisdiction of any crime (1) the essential
204 elements of which are substantially the same as any of the crimes
205 specified in subdivisions (2), (5) and (11) of section 54-250, or (2) which
206 requires registration as a sexual offender in such other state or in the
207 federal or military system, and who resides in this state on and after
208 October 1, 1998, shall, without undue delay upon residing in this state,
209 register with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
210 Protection in the same manner as if such person had been convicted or
211 found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of such crime in
212 this state, except that the commissioner shall maintain such registration
213 until such person is released from the registration requirement in such
214 other state, federal or military system or foreign jurisdiction.

215 (b) (1) If any person who is subject to registration under this section
216 changes such person's name, such person shall, without undue delay,

217 notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
218 in writing of the new name. If any person who is subject to registration
219 under this section changes such person's address, such person shall,
220 without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services
221 and Public Protection in writing of the new address and, if the new
222 address is in another state, such person shall also register with an
223 appropriate agency in that state, provided that state has a registration
224 requirement for such offenders. If any person who is subject to
225 registration under this section establishes or changes an electronic mail
226 address, instant message address or other similar Internet
227 communication identifier, such person shall, without undue delay,
228 notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
229 in writing of such identifier. If any person who is subject to registration
230 under this section is employed at, carries on a vocation at or is a student
231 at a trade or professional institution or institution of higher learning in
232 this state, such person shall, without undue delay, notify the
233 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such
234 status and of any change in such status. If any person who is subject to
235 registration under this section is employed in another state, carries on a
236 vocation in another state or is a student in another state, such person
237 shall, without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency
238 Services and Public Protection and shall also register with an
239 appropriate agency in that state, provided that state has a registration
240 requirement for such offenders.

241 (2) During such period of registration, each registrant shall (A)
242 complete and return or submit forms mailed to such registrant, as
243 provided in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as
244 amended by this act, to verify such registrant's residence address, and
245 [shall] (B) submit to the retaking of a photographic image upon request
246 of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

247 (c) Any person not a resident of this state who is registered as a sexual
248 offender under the laws of any other state and who is employed in this
249 state, carries on a vocation in this state or is a student in this state, shall,
250 without undue delay after the commencement of such employment,

251 vocation or education in this state, register such person's name,
252 identifying factors and criminal history record, locations visited on a
253 recurring basis, and such person's residence address, if any, in this state,
254 residence address in such person's home state and electronic mail
255 address, instant message address or other similar Internet
256 communication identifier, if any, with the Commissioner of Emergency
257 Services and Public Protection on such forms and in such locations as
258 said commissioner shall direct and shall maintain such registration until
259 such employment, vocation or education terminates or until such
260 person is released from registration as a sexual offender in such other
261 state. If such person terminates such person's employment, vocation or
262 education in this state, changes such person's address in this state or
263 establishes or changes an electronic mail address, instant message
264 address or other similar Internet communication identifier such person
265 shall, without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency
266 Services and Public Protection in writing of such termination, new
267 address or identifier.

268 (d) Any person not a resident of this state who is registered as a sexual
269 offender under the laws of any other state and who travels in this state
270 on a recurring basis for periods of less than five days shall notify the
271 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such
272 person's temporary residence in this state and of a telephone number at
273 which such person may be contacted.

274 (e) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this
275 section, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, subparagraph
276 (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, subsection (c) of
277 this section or subsection (d) of this section, or intentionally violates the
278 provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
279 this section shall be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person
280 violates the provisions of this section by failing to register with the
281 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without
282 undue delay or notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
283 Public Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or
284 status or another reportable event, such person shall be subject to such

285 penalty if such failure continues for five business days.

286 (2) Any person who without intent violates the provisions of
287 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall
288 have committed an infraction, except that, if such person did not receive
289 the residence address verification form from the Department of
290 Emergency Services and Public Protection, such person may request
291 such form from the department to be mailed to such person, in which
292 case not later than twenty days after such form is postmarked, the
293 person shall return or submit such form pursuant to subdivision (1) or
294 (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this act, or such
295 person shall have committed an infraction.

296 Sec. 4. Section 54-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the
297 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

298 (a) (1) Any person who has been convicted or found not guilty by
299 reason of mental disease or defect in this state on or after October 1, 1998,
300 of any felony that the court finds was committed for a sexual purpose,
301 may be required by the court upon release into the community or, if
302 such person is in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, at such
303 time prior to release as the commissioner shall direct to register such
304 person's name, identifying factors, criminal history record, residence
305 address and electronic mail address, instant message address or other
306 similar Internet communication identifier, if any, with the
307 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, on such
308 forms and in such locations as the commissioner shall direct, and to
309 maintain such registration for ten years from the date of such person's
310 release into the community. If the court finds that a person has
311 committed a felony for a sexual purpose and intends to require such
312 person to register under this section, prior to accepting a plea of guilty
313 or nolo contendere from such person with respect to such felony, the
314 court shall ~~[(1)]~~ (A) inform the person that the entry of a finding of guilty
315 after acceptance of the plea will subject the person to the registration
316 requirements of this section, and ~~[(2)]~~ (B) determine that the person fully
317 understands the consequences of the plea. If any person who is subject

318 to registration under this section changes such person's name, such
319 person shall, without undue delay, notify the Commissioner of
320 Emergency Services and Public Protection in writing of the new name.
321 If any person who is subject to registration under this section changes
322 such person's address, such person shall, without undue delay, notify
323 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in
324 writing of the new address and, if the new address is in another state,
325 such person shall also register with an appropriate agency in that state,
326 provided that state has a registration requirement for such offenders. If
327 any person who is subject to registration under this section establishes
328 or changes an electronic mail address, instant message address or other
329 similar Internet communication identifier, such person shall, without
330 undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
331 Public Protection in writing of such identifier. If any person who is
332 subject to registration under this section is employed at, carries on a
333 vocation at or is a student at a trade or professional institution or
334 institution of higher learning in this state, such person shall, without
335 undue delay, notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
336 Public Protection of such status and of any change in such status. If any
337 person who is subject to registration under this section is employed in
338 another state, carries on a vocation in another state or is a student in
339 another state, such person shall, without undue delay, notify the
340 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection and shall
341 also register with an appropriate agency in that state, provided that state
342 has a registration requirement for such offenders.

343 (2) During such period of registration, each registrant shall (A)
344 complete and return or submit forms mailed to such registrant, as
345 provided in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as
346 amended by this act, to verify such registrant's residence address, and
347 [shall] (B) submit to the retaking of a photographic image upon request
348 of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

349 (b) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1) of
350 subsection (a) of this section or subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
351 subsection (a) of this section, or intentionally violates the provisions of

352 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
353 be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person violates the
354 provisions of this section by failing to notify the Commissioner of
355 Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a
356 change of name, address or status or another reportable event, such
357 person shall be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five
358 business days.

359 (2) Any person who without intent violates the provisions of
360 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
361 have committed an infraction, except that, if such person did not receive
362 the residence address verification form from the Department of
363 Emergency Services and Public Protection, such person may request
364 such form from the department to be mailed to such person, in which
365 case not later than twenty days after such form is postmarked, the
366 person shall return or submit such form pursuant to subdivision (1) or
367 (2) of subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this act, or such
368 person shall have committed an infraction.

369 Sec. 5. Section 54-257 of the general statutes is repealed and the
370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

371 (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
372 shall, not later than January 1, 1999, establish and maintain a registry of
373 all persons required to register under sections 54-251, as amended by
374 this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act,
375 and 54-254, as amended by this act. The department shall, in cooperation
376 with the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, the Department of
377 Correction and the Psychiatric Security Review Board, develop
378 appropriate forms for use by agencies and individuals to report
379 registration information, including changes of residence address. Upon
380 receipt of registration information, the department shall enter the
381 information into the registry and notify the local police department or
382 state police troop having jurisdiction where the registrant resides or
383 plans to reside. If a registrant notifies the Department of Emergency
384 Services and Public Protection that such registrant is employed at,

385 carries on a vocation at or is a student at a trade or professional
386 institution or institution of higher learning in this state, the department
387 shall notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over such
388 institution. If a registrant reports a residence in another state, the
389 department shall notify the state police agency of that state or such other
390 agency in that state that maintains registry information, if known. The
391 department shall also transmit all registration information, conviction
392 data, photographic images and fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of
393 Investigation in such form as said bureau shall require for inclusion in a
394 national registry.

395 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
396 may suspend the registration of any person registered under section 54-
397 251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as
398 amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, while such
399 person is incarcerated, under civil commitment or residing outside this
400 state. During the period that such registration is under suspension, the
401 department is not required to verify the residence address of the
402 registrant pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and may withdraw
403 the registration information from public access. Upon the release of the
404 registrant from incarceration or civil commitment or resumption of
405 residency in this state by the registrant, the department shall reinstate
406 the registration, redistribute the registration information in accordance
407 with subsection (a) of this section and resume verifying the residence
408 address of the registrant in accordance with subsection (c) of this
409 section. Suspension of registration shall not affect the date of expiration
410 of the registration obligation of the registrant under section 54-251, as
411 amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, or 54-253, as
412 amended by this act.

413 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the
414 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall verify
415 the residence address of each registrant by mailing a nonforwardable
416 verification form to the registrant at the registrant's last reported
417 residence address. Such form shall require the registrant to sign a
418 statement that the registrant continues to reside at the registrant's last

419 reported residence address and return or submit the form (1) prior to
420 January 1, 2026, by mail, facsimile or electronic mail, and (2) on and after
421 January 1, 2026, by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or submission of the
422 form orally pursuant to subsection (g) of this section by a date which is
423 [ten] twenty days after the date such form [was mailed to the registrant]
424 is postmarked. The form shall contain a statement that failure to return
425 or submit the form or providing false information is a violation of
426 section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act,
427 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, as the
428 case may be. In the case of a registrant who resides at a residence
429 address for which there is no residential mail delivery, the local police
430 department or the state police troop having jurisdiction where the
431 registrant resides shall verify in person such registrant's residence
432 address. Each person required to register under section 54-251, as
433 amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended
434 by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, shall have such person's
435 residence address verified in such manner every ninety days after such
436 person's initial registration date. In the event that a registrant fails to
437 return or submit the residence address verification form, the
438 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall notify
439 the local police department or the state police troop having jurisdiction
440 over the registrant's last reported residence address, and that agency
441 shall apply for a warrant to be issued for the registrant's arrest under
442 section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act,
443 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, as the
444 case may be, if there is probable cause that a registrant's failure to return
445 or submit the address verification form was intentional. The
446 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall not
447 verify the address of registrants whose last reported residence address
448 was outside this state.

449 (d) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
450 shall include in the registry the most recent photographic image of each
451 registrant taken by the department, the Department of Correction, a law
452 enforcement agency or the Court Support Services Division of the
453 Judicial Department and shall retake the photographic image of each

454 registrant at least once every five years.

455 (e) Whenever the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
456 Protection receives notice from a superior court pursuant to section 52-
457 11 or a probate court pursuant to section 45a-99 that such court has
458 ordered the change of name of a person, and the department determines
459 that such person is listed in the registry, the department shall revise such
460 person's registration information accordingly.

461 (f) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
462 shall develop a protocol for the notification of other state agencies, the
463 Judicial Department and local police departments whenever a person
464 listed in the registry changes such person's name and notifies the
465 commissioner of the new name pursuant to section 54-251, as amended
466 by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this
467 act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, or whenever the commissioner
468 determines pursuant to subsection (e) of this section that a person listed
469 in the registry has changed such person's name.

470 (g) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency
471 Services and Public Protection shall establish and implement a system
472 for a registrant to verify such registrant's residential address by orally
473 submitting such form by telephone. The commissioner shall establish
474 protocol for the submission and recording of such verification. The
475 commissioner shall post on the Internet web site of the Department of
476 Emergency Services and Public Protection the telephone number and
477 the schedule of operation for such system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------|
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 54-251 |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 54-252 |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 54-253 |
| Sec. 4 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 54-254 |
| Sec. 5 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | 54-257 |

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 26 \$ | FY 27 \$ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | GF - Cost | 25,000 | None |
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | GF - Potential Cost | 58,500 | 117,000 |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹ | GF - Potential Cost | 22,798 | 45,595 |
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | GF - Potential Savings | See Below | See Below |
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | FF - Potential Revenue Loss | See Below | See Below |
| Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept. | GF - Potential Savings | Minimal | Minimal |
| Resources of the General Fund | GF - Potential Revenue Gain | Minimal | Minimal |

Note: GF=General Fund; FF=Federal Funds

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill (1) requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to create and implement a system allowing sex offender registrants to verify their residential address over the phone and (2) lowers the penalty for a registrant's unintentional failure to verify their address from a felony to an infraction, resulting in the following impacts.

To create and implement a system allowing registrants to verify their residential address by phone, DESPP will incur a one-time cost of

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

\$25,000 to modify their Offender Watch System.

To the extent that registrants begin reporting their address verification by telephone, DESPP may need to hire up to two processing technicians to receive and record such information, resulting in a potential cost to DESPP of \$58,500 in FY 26 and \$117,000 in FY 27 and a potential cost to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits of \$22,798 in FY 26 and \$45,595 in FY 27.² Equipment costs for these positions are not expected to exceed \$5,000 annually. The FY 26 potential costs reflect the bill's partial-year implementation.

There is a potential savings to DESPP to the extent that telephonic verification will offset current verification processes performed by DESPP employees.

If the bill's provisions affect the state's compliance status with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), there is a potential revenue loss of federal grants received under such act.³

The bill also lowers the penalty for a registrant's unintentional failure to verify their address from a felony to an infraction, which results in potential savings to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation.⁴ On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300⁵ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600⁶ each year for adults.

² The annual starting salary for a Processing Technician is estimated to be \$56,000.

³ In the past eight fiscal years, DESPP has received an average of \$142,000 annually in SORNA grants.

⁴ In FY 22 – FY 24, there were 2,600 charges recorded and \$8,670 in associated revenue collected under CGS §§ 54-251 through 54-254. Less than 20 offenders are currently incarcerated under these statutes.

⁵ Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.).

⁶ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

Finally, the bill results in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from infractions. Infractions are not crimes and are punishable by fines that usually range from \$100 to \$300.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of infractions and telephonic address verifications.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1500*****AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRANTS' ADDRESSES.*****SUMMARY**

Existing law generally requires registered sex offenders to verify their residential address every 90 days by returning a form provided by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).

Principally, this bill:

1. requires the DESPP commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to create and implement a system allowing registrants to submit this information over the phone instead of by mail, email, or fax;
2. lowers the penalty for a registrant's unintentional failure to return the form (or submit the information over the phone), from a felony to an infraction;
3. extends, from 10 to 20 days, the deadline for registrants to return or submit the form; and
4. allows offenders who did not receive the verification form to request it from DESPP, and gives them 20 days to return or submit it.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

SEX OFFENDER ADDRESS VERIFICATION

Under Connecticut's sex offender registration law, certain offenders must register with DESPP for a specified period, generally starting (1)

when they are released into the community or (2) for people with convictions from other jurisdictions, when they move to the state. (DESPP can suspend the person's registration, and corresponding address verification, while a person is incarcerated, under civil commitment, or living in another state.)

By law, DESPP verifies the reported in-state residential address of registrants by sending non-forwardable verification forms to the listed address every 90 days. The bill extends, from 10 to 20 days after DESPP sends the form, the deadline for registrants to return the forms, and specifies that this date is calculated from when the DESPP mailing was postmarked. The bill also allows registrants who do not receive the DESPP form to request one from the department, and gives them 20 days after it is postmarked to return it.

Current law requires registrants to return the forms by mail, email, or fax. Starting January 1, 2026, the bill creates a new option by allowing them to submit the information over the phone. By that date, it requires the DESPP commissioner to create and implement a system allowing registrants to verify their address in this way. The commissioner must (1) set protocols for the submission and recording of this verification and (2) post on DESPP's website the phone number for address verification and this system's operating schedule.

Penalty for Failure to Return or Submit the Form

Under current law, failure to return sex offender address verification forms as required is a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. The bill lowers the penalty to an infraction if the failure to return the form (or submit the information over the phone) within the bill's 20-day deadline is unintentional. Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine.

The bill also makes it an infraction if a registrant, after not receiving the DESPP form, requests one but then fails to return or submit it within

20 days.

Under the bill, the intentional failure to submit or return the form continues to be a class D felony. As under existing law, it is also a class D felony if a registrant fails to notify DESPP about an address change within five business days.

Existing law requires DESPP to notify the local police department or appropriate state police troop if a registrant fails to return the address verification form (or under the bill, submit the form over the phone). Current law requires the local or state police, in turn, to apply for an arrest warrant. Corresponding to the penalty changes noted above, the bill instead requires them to apply for an arrest warrant only if there is probable cause to believe that the registrant's failure to return or submit the form was intentional.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 11 (04/10/2025)