



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 509**

**Public Act No. 26-96**

***AN ACT CONCERNING ADDRESS VERIFICATION REFORMS FOR REGISTRANTS.***

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

Section 1. Subdivision (11) of section 54-250 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(11) "Sexually violent offense" means (A) a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70, except subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of said section, 53a-70a, 53a-71, except subdivision (1), (4), (8) or (10) or subparagraph (B) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of said section or subparagraph (A) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of said section if the court makes a finding that, at the time of the offense, the victim was under eighteen years of age, 53a-72a, except subdivision [(2)] (3) of subsection (a) of said section, or 53a-72b, or of section 53a-92 or 53a-92a, provided the court makes a finding that the offense was committed with intent to sexually violate or abuse the victim, (B) a violation of any of the offenses specified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision for which a person is criminally liable under section 53a-8, 53a-48 or 53a-49, or (C) a violation of any predecessor statute to any of the offenses specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision the essential elements of which are

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substantially the same as said offense.

Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 54-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person violates the provisions of this section by failing to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or status or another reportable event, such person shall only be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five business days.

(2) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of subsection (a) of this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that (A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of said subsection (a), (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of said subsection (a) not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist.

Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 54-252 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person violates the provisions of this section by failing to notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or status or another reportable event, such person shall only be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five business days.

(2) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of this section, it

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shall be an affirmative defense that (A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this section, (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist.

Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 54-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person violates the provisions of this section by failing to register with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay or notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or status or another reportable event, such person shall only be subject to such penalty if such failure continues for five business days.

(2) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that (A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this section, (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist.

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 54-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person violates the

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

(2) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that (A) circumstances beyond the control of the person prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this section, (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty business days after such circumstances ceased to exist.

Sec. 6. Section 54-257 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, not later than January 1, 1999, establish and maintain a registry of all persons required to register under sections 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, and 54-254, as amended by this act. The department shall, in cooperation with the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, the Department of Correction and the Psychiatric Security Review Board, develop appropriate forms for use by agencies and individuals to report registration information, including changes of residence address. Upon receipt of registration information, the department shall enter the information into the registry and notify the local police department or state police troop having jurisdiction where the registrant resides or plans to reside. If a registrant notifies the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection that such registrant is employed at, carries on a vocation at or is a student at a trade or professional institution or institution of higher learning in this state, the department shall notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over such

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institution. If a registrant reports a residence in another state, the department shall notify the state police agency of that state or such other agency in that state that maintains registry information, if known. The department shall also transmit all registration information, conviction data, photographic images and fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in such form as said bureau shall require for inclusion in a national registry.

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

[(c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall verify the residence address of each registrant by mailing]

(c) Any person registered under section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, shall provide proof of residency by mail,

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facsimile or electronic mail or in person to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection not more than ninety days, but not fewer than seventy-five days after such person's initial registration date. The department shall accept any of the following documents as proof of residency, provided such document contains the registrant's residence address and is dated not earlier than thirty days prior to submission of such document to the department: (1) A utility bill, including, but not limited to, a bill for electricity, gas, water or Internet service; (2) a financial statement, including, but not limited to, a bank statement or credit card statement; (3) a homeowner's, renter's or motor vehicle insurance bill or statement; (4) official correspondence from a state or federal government agency; or (5) any other document that the department deems sufficient to prove residency.

(d) If the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection has not received proof of residency pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the department shall mail a nonforwardable address verification form to the registrant at the registrant's last reported residence address. Such form shall require the registrant to sign a statement that the registrant continues to reside at the registrant's last reported residence address and return the form by mail, facsimile or electronic mail or in person by a date which is ten days after the date [such form] of the postmark on the form that was mailed to the registrant. The form shall contain a (1) statement that failure to return the form or providing false information is a violation of section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, as the case may be, and (2) statement printed in bold text (A) explaining that the form may be returned to the department by mail, facsimile or electronic mail or in person, and (B) providing the mailing address, facsimile number, electronic mail address and the physical address for in-person return of such form. In the case of a registrant who resides at a residence address for which there is no residential mail delivery, the local police

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department or the state police troop having jurisdiction where the registrant resides shall verify in person such registrant's residence address. Each person required to register under section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, shall have such person's residence address verified in such manner every ninety days after such person's initial registration date, unless such person provides the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection proof of residency in the same manner provided for in subsection (c) of this section. In the event that a registrant fails to return the residence address verification form or provide proof of residency to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the same manner provided for in subsection (c) of this section, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall notify the local police department or the state police troop having jurisdiction over the registrant's last reported residence address, and that agency shall apply for a warrant to be issued for the registrant's arrest under section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, as the case may be. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall not verify the address of registrants whose last reported residence address was outside this state.

~~[(d)]~~ (e) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall include in the registry the most recent photographic image of each registrant taken by the department, the Department of Correction, a law enforcement agency or the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department and shall retake the photographic image of each registrant at least once every five years.

~~[(e)]~~ (f) Whenever the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection receives notice from a superior court pursuant to section 52-11 or a probate court pursuant to section 45a-99 that such

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court has ordered the change of name of a person, and the department determines that such person is listed in the registry, the department shall revise such person's registration information accordingly.

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