**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**A221, R249, H4075**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Wetmore, Stavrinakis and Weeks

Document Path: l:\council\bills\gt\6054cm21.docx

Introduced in the House on March 11, 2021

Introduced in the Senate on April 28, 2021

Last Amended on May 12, 2022

Passed by the General Assembly on May 12, 2022

Governor's Action: May 23, 2022, Signed

Summary: SLED, conformity for registration requirements

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/11/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 45](file:///h:\hj\20210311.docx))

3/11/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 45](file:///h:\hj\20210311.docx))

4/21/2021 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 15](file:///h:\hj\20210421.docx))

4/27/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Weeks

4/27/2021 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 93](file:///h:\hj\20210427.docx))

4/27/2021 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 93](file:///h:\hj\20210427.docx))

4/27/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑105 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 93](file:///h:\hj\20210427.docx))

4/28/2021 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\hj\20210428.docx))

4/28/2021 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\sj\20210428.docx))

4/28/2021 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\sj\20210428.docx))

3/2/2022 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Hutto (ch), Climer, McLeod, Adams, Garrett

4/20/2022 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 15](file:///h:\sj\20220420.docx))

4/21/2022 Scrivener's error corrected

5/3/2022 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 41](file:///h:\sj\20220503.docx))

5/4/2022 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 67](file:///h:\sj\20220504.docx))

5/4/2022 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 67](file:///h:\sj\20220504.docx))

5/4/2022 Senate Roll call Ayes‑42 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 68](file:///h:\sj\20220504.docx))

5/5/2022 Scrivener's error corrected

5/11/2022 House Debate adjourned ([House Journal‑page 61](file:///h:\hj\20220511.docx))

5/12/2022 House Senate amendment amended ([House Journal‑page 9](file:///h:\hj\20220512.docx))

5/12/2022 House Roll call Yeas‑80 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\hj\20220512.docx))

5/12/2022 House Returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\hj\20220512.docx))

5/12/2022 Senate Concurred in House amendment and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 56](file:///h:\sj\20220512.docx))

5/18/2022 Ratified R 249

5/23/2022 Signed By Governor

6/1/2022 Effective date 05/23/22

6/1/2022 Act No.  221

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

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(A221, R249, H4075)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23‑3‑430, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY, SO AS TO DELETE THE TERM “ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT”, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES, TO PROVIDE PERSONS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN OFFENSES WOULD BE REFERRED TO AS EITHER TIER I, TIER II, OR TIER III OFFENDERS; BY ADDING SECTION 23‑23‑436 SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PERSONS ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT FOR A TIER III OFFENSE TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDERS; TO AMEND SECTION 23‑3‑460, RELATING TO BIANNUAL LIFETIME REGISTRATION FOR SEX OFFENDERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE OFFENDERS CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO REQUIRE SEX OFFENDERS REGISTER WITHIN THREE DAYS OF BEGINNING EMPLOYMENT AT A SCHOOL; BY ADDING SECTIONS 23‑3‑462 AND 23‑3‑463 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SEX OFFENDERS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OR UPON COURT ORDER; TO AMEND SECTION 23‑3‑490, RELATING TO PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY, SO AS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REGISTRY MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS AND TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR PERSONS ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT FOR COMMITTING TIER III OFFENSES; BY ADDING SECTION 23‑3‑538 SO AS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT DETERMINE SEX OFFENDERS ARE IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MUST NOTIFY THE SEX OFFENDERS OF THE VIOLATION, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENDERS WHO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIVITIES AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ACT IS RETROACTIVE AND APPLIES TO CERTAIN RESIDENTS WHO CURRENTLY ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDERS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 23‑3‑437 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR REMOVAL FROM THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY FOR CERTAIN JUVENILES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Sex offender registry**

SECTION 1. Section 23‑3‑430 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 23‑3‑430. (A) Any person, regardless of age, residing in the State of South Carolina who in this State has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to an offense described below, or who has been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or found not guilty by reason of insanity in any comparable court in the United States, or a foreign country, or who has been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or found not guilty by reason of insanity in the United States federal courts of a similar offense, or who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or found not guilty by reason of insanity to an offense for which the person was required to register in the state where the conviction or plea occurred, shall be required to register pursuant to the provisions of this article. A person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity shall not be required to register pursuant to the provisions of this article unless and until the person is declared to no longer be insane or is ordered to register by the trial judge. A person who has been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or found not guilty by reason of insanity in any court in a foreign country may raise as a defense to a prosecution for failure to register that the offense in the foreign country was not equivalent to any offense in this State for which he would be required to register and may raise as a defense that the conviction, plea, or finding in the foreign country was based on a proceeding or trial in which the person was not afforded the due process of law as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and this State.

(B) For purposes of this article, a person who remains in this State for a total of thirty days during a twelve‑month period is a resident of this State.

(C)(1) For purposes of this article, a person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any of the following offenses shall be referred to as a Tier I offender:

(a) criminal sexual conduct in the third degree (Section 16‑3‑654);

(b) kidnapping (Section 16‑3‑910) of a person eighteen years of age or older except when the court makes a finding on the record that the offense did not include a criminal sexual offense or an attempted criminal sexual offense;

(c) incest (Section 16‑15‑20);

(d) buggery (Section 16‑15‑120);

(e) peeping, voyeurism, or aggravated voyeurism (Section 16‑17‑470);

(f) a person, regardless of age, who has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere in this State, or who has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere in a comparable court in the United States, or who has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere in the United States federal courts of indecent exposure or of a similar offense in other jurisdictions is required to register pursuant to the provisions of this article if the court makes a specific finding on the record that, based on the circumstances of the case, the convicted person should register as a sex offender;

(g) sexual intercourse with a patient or trainee (Section 44‑23‑1150);

(h) administering, distributing, dispensing, delivering, or aiding, abetting, attempting, or conspiring to administer, distribute, dispense, or deliver a controlled substance or gamma hydroxy butyrate to an individual with the intent to commit a crime listed in Section 44‑53‑370(f), except petit larceny or grand larceny;

(i) any other offense as described in Section 23‑3‑430(D); or

(j) any other offense required by Title I of the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109‑248), the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

(2) For purposes of this article, a person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any of the following offenses shall be referred to as a Tier II offender:

(a) criminal sexual conduct in the second degree (Section 16‑3‑653);

(b) engaging a child for sexual performance (Section 16‑3‑810);

(c) producing, directing, or promoting sexual performance by a child (Section 16‑3‑820);

(d) trafficking in persons (Section 16‑3‑2020) except when the court makes a finding on the record that the offense did not include a criminal sexual offense or an attempted criminal sexual offense;

(e) criminal sexual conduct with minors, second degree (Section 16‑3‑655(B)). If evidence is presented at the criminal proceeding, or in any court of competent jurisdiction, and the court makes a specific finding on the record that the conviction obtained for this offense resulted from consensual sexual conduct, as contained in Section 16‑3‑655(B)(2), provided the offender is eighteen years of age or less, or consensual sexual conduct between persons under sixteen years of age, the convicted person is not an offender and is not required to register pursuant to the provisions of this article;

(f) criminal sexual conduct with minors, third degree (Section 16‑3‑655(C)). If evidence is presented at the criminal proceeding, or in any court of competent jurisdiction, and the court makes a specific finding on the record that the conviction obtained for this offense resulted from consensual sexual conduct, as contained in Section 16‑3‑655(B)(2), provided the offender is eighteen years of age or less, or consensual sexual conduct between persons under sixteen years of age, the convicted person is not an offender and is not required to register pursuant to the provisions of this article;

(g) criminal solicitation of a minor if the purpose or intent of the solicitation or attempted solicitation was to:

(i) persuade, induce, entice, or coerce the person solicited to engage or participate in sexual activity as defined in Section 16‑15‑375(5);

(ii) perform a sexual activity in the presence of the person solicited (Section 16‑15‑342); or

(h) violations of Article 3, Chapter 15, Title 16 involving a minor.

(3) For purposes of this article, a person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any of the following offenses shall be referred to as a Tier III offender:

(a) criminal sexual conduct in the first degree (Section 16‑3‑652);

(b) criminal sexual conduct with minors, first degree (Section 16‑3‑655(A));

(c) criminal sexual conduct: assaults with intent to commit (Section 16‑3‑656);

(d) kidnapping (Section 16‑3‑910) of a person under eighteen years of age except when the offense is committed by a parent;

(e) criminal sexual conduct when the victim is a spouse (Section 16‑3‑658);

(f) sexual battery of a spouse (Section 16‑3‑615); or

(g) any offense listed or described in this section committed after the offender becomes a Tier I or Tier II offender.

(D) Upon conviction, guilty plea, or plea of nolo contendere of a person of an offense not listed in this article, the presiding judge may order as a condition of sentencing that the person be included in the sex offender registry if good cause is shown by the prosecution.

(E) SLED shall remove a person’s name and any other information concerning that person from the sex offender registry immediately upon notification by the Attorney General that the person’s adjudication, conviction, guilty plea, or plea of nolo contendere for an offense listed in subsection (C) was reversed, overturned, or vacated on appeal and a final judgment has been rendered.

(F) If an offender receives a pardon for the offense for which he was required to register, the offender must reregister as provided by Section 23‑3‑460 and may not be removed from the registry except:

(1) as provided by the provisions of subsection (E); or

(2) if the pardon is based on a finding of not guilty specifically stated in the pardon.

(G) If an offender files a petition for a writ of habeas corpus or a motion for a new trial pursuant to Rule 29(b), South Carolina Rules of Criminal Procedure, based on newly discovered evidence, the offender must reregister as provided by Section 23‑3‑460 and may not be removed from the registry except:

(1) as provided by the provisions of subsection (E); or

(2)(a) if the circuit court grants the offender’s petition or motion and orders a new trial; and

(b) a verdict of acquittal is returned at the new trial or entered with the state’s consent.”

**Registration**

SECTION 2. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑436. (A) A child who is fourteen years of age or older and who has been adjudicated delinquent by a family court in this State for any Tier III offense is required to register in accordance with this article.

(B) A child who is fourteen years of age or older and has been adjudicated delinquent of any other offense listed in Section 23‑3‑430(C) may be required, in the discretion of the family court, to register in accordance with this article. In making this determination, the court shall consider:

(1) the likelihood the juvenile will reoffend, based on a psychosexual risk assessment and evaluation by a licensed clinical psychologist or licensed psychiatrist employed by the Department of Juvenile Justice. The Circuit Solicitor’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, or the juvenile also may have an independent psychosexual risk assessment evaluation by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist;

(2) the age of the juvenile at the time of the offense and adjudication;

(3) mitigating factors;

(4) aggravating factors including, but not limited to, age of victim, use of force, or use of weapons;

(5) prior adjudications; and

(6) other factors the court considers relevant.

(C) A child twelve years of age but less than fourteen years of age who has been adjudicated delinquent by a family court in this State for any Tier III offense may be required to register in the discretion of the Family Court.

(1) In making the determination, the court must consider:

(a) the likelihood the person will reoffend, based on a psychosexual risk assessment and evaluation by a licensed clinical psychologist or licensed psychiatrist as ordered by the court. The Circuit Solicitor’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, or the juvenile also may have an independent psychosexual risk assessment evaluation by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist;

(b) the age of the juvenile at the time of the offense and adjudication;

(c) mitigating factors;

(d) aggravating factors including, but not limited to, age of victim, use of force, or use of weapons;

(e) prior adjudications; and

(f) other factors the court considers relevant.

(D) A resident child who is adjudicated delinquent in any other state is required to register in this State subject to the requirements of the sentencing jurisdiction including duration of registration.”

**Biannual registration**

SECTION 3. Section 23‑3‑460(A) and (C) of the 1976 Code are amended to read:

“(A) A person required to register pursuant to this article is required to register biannually for life subject to the provisions of Section 23‑3‑462 and Section 23‑3‑463. For purposes of this article, ‘biannually’ means each year during the month of his birthday and again during the sixth month following his birth month. The person required to register shall register and must reregister at the sheriff’s department in each county where he resides, owns real property, is employed, or attends any public or private school including, but not limited to, a secondary school, adult education school, college or university, and any vocational, technical, or occupational school. A person determined by a court to be a sexually violent predator pursuant to state law is required to verify registration and be photographed every ninety days by the sheriff’s department in the county in which he resides unless the person is committed to the custody of the State, and verification will be held in abeyance until his release.

(C) If a person required to register pursuant to this article changes his address within the same county, that person must send written notice of the change of address to the sheriff within three business days of establishing the new residence. If a person required to register under this article owns or acquires real property or is employed within a county in this State, or attends, is enrolled, volunteers, interns, or carries on a vocation at any public or private school including, but not limited to, a secondary school, adult education school, college or university, and any vocational, technical, or occupational school, he must register with the sheriff in each county where the real property, employment, or the public or private school is located within three business days of acquiring the real property, beginning employment at any school, or attending the public or private school.”

**Termination of registration requirements**

SECTION 4. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑462. (A) After successful completion of the requirements of this section, an offender may apply to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division for the termination of the requirements of registration pursuant to this article. If it is determined that the offender has met the requirements of this section, SLED shall remove the offender’s name and identifying information from the sex offender registry and shall notify the offender within one hundred twenty days that the offender has been relieved of the registration requirements of this article.

(1) An offender may file a request for termination of the requirement of registration with SLED, in a form and process established by the agency:

(a) after having been registered for at least fifteen years if the offender was required to register based on an adjudication of delinquency or the offender was required to register as a Tier I offender;

(b) after having been registered for at least twenty‑five years, if the offender was convicted as an adult, and was required to register as a Tier II offender;

(c) an offender who was required to register as an offender because of a conviction in another state or because of a federal conviction may apply to be removed from the requirements of the registry if he is eligible to be removed under the laws of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred.

(2) An offender who was convicted as an adult, and who is required to register as a Tier III offender may not file a request for termination of registration with SLED nor shall any such request be granted pursuant to this subsection.

(3) The requesting offender must have successfully completed all sex offender treatment programs that have been required.

(4) The requesting offender must not have been convicted of failure to register within the previous ten years.

(5) The offender must not have been convicted of any additional sexual offense or violent sexual offense after being placed on the registry.

(6) A filing fee, as set by SLED but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars, shall be paid to file the request for termination of registration requirements. The initial application may be filed with SLED and the administrative review may begin one hundred twenty days prior to the date specified in subsection (A)(1); however, any removal may not occur prior to the date specified.

(B) Upon receipt of the request for termination, SLED shall review documentation provided by the offender and contained in the offender’s file and the sex offender registry to determine whether the offender has complied with the requirements of this section. In addition, SLED shall conduct fingerprint‑based state and federal criminal history checks to determine whether the offender has been convicted of any additional sexual offenses, as defined in Section 23‑3‑430.

(C) If all the requirements of this section are verified, SLED shall, within one hundred twenty days of receipt of the request for termination, remove an offender’s name from the registry and notify the offender that the offender is no longer required to comply with the registry requirements of this article.

(D) If it is determined that the offender has been convicted of any additional sexual offenses or violent sexual offenses during the applicable period, has not substantially complied with this section, or an objection has been filed by the original prosecuting agency, SLED shall not remove the offender’s name from the sex offender registry and shall notify the offender that the offender has not been relieved of the provisions in this article.

(1) If an offender is denied a termination request, the offender may petition again for termination with SLED no sooner than five years after the previous denial.

(2) If an offender is denied a termination request based on conviction of any additional sexual offenses or violent sexual offenses, the offender may not submit a petition to SLED for termination unless the subsequent conviction is overturned or pardon granted.

(E) An offender whose request for termination of registration requirements is denied by SLED is entitled to appeal the denial to the general sessions court pursuant to the requirements of Section 23‑3‑463 for the county in which the conviction occurred if the conviction occurred within the State, or if not, the county in which the offender resides. Individuals placed on the registry as a juvenile should petition the family court that adjudicated them delinquent. The SLED official who denied the request for termination of registration requirements may submit an affidavit to the court detailing the reasons the request was denied.

(F) If a person is convicted of multiple offenses requiring registration, and the offenses fall within different tiers, the person only may petition for removal of the registration requirement once the required time passes for the highest tier offense they have been convicted of that requires registration. If a petition based upon this section is denied, the person may not petition again until five years after the date of the final order.”

**Termination of registration requirements**

SECTION 5. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑463. (A) An offender may file a motion with the general sessions court to request an order to be removed from the requirements of the sex offender registry act if:

(1) He is a Tier I or Tier II offender or if the offender was required to register based on an adjudication of delinquency whose application for removal under Section 23‑3‑462 has been denied by SLED.

(2) He is a Tier III offender after thirty years from the date of discharge from incarceration without supervision, or the termination of active supervision of probation, parole, or any other active alternative to incarceration.

(3) If the offender is required to register due to an out‑of‑state or federal conviction, the equivalent tier under the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109‑248), the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) shall apply.

(B) All motions pursuant to this section must be made no earlier than the appropriate timeframes related to the underlying offense as specified in Section 23‑3‑462(A)(1) or subsection (A)(2). An offender is not eligible for a hearing pursuant to this section if he submitted an application prior to the timeframe specified in Section 23‑3‑462(A)(1) that was either not accepted or erroneously accepted by SLED.

(C) The motion must be filed in the county in which the underlying conviction occurred if the conviction occurred within the State, or if the conviction occurred outside of the State, the county in which the offender resides.

(D) A person requesting a hearing under this section is entitled to the assistance of counsel, and if the person is indigent, the court must appoint counsel to assist the person.

(E) The court may direct that a qualified evaluator designated by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health conduct an evaluation whether the offender poses a foreseeable risk to reoffend. For any such evaluation, the court must order the offender to comply with all testing and assessments deemed necessary by the evaluator. After the evaluation by the qualified evaluator designated by the department, if the offender or the prosecutor seeks an independent evaluation by an independent qualified evaluator, then that evaluation must be completed within ninety days after receipt of the request by the department evaluator. The court may grant an extension upon the request of the independent qualified evaluator and a showing of extraordinary circumstances. Any qualified evaluator who will be submitted as an expert at a hearing on the motion must submit a written report available to both parties.

(F) The court must make a determination upon a finding by clear and convincing evidence that the offender is no longer a foreseeable risk to reoffend and that it is in the best interest of justice to grant the motion for removal from the requirement of registration.

(G) The State of South Carolina must be named as the respondent to the action and shall be represented by the prosecution office that obtained the underlying conviction for which the offender is required to register, or, if the conviction occurred outside of the State, the Attorney General. All requirements of the Victim’s Rights Act, including reasonable notice, must be observed. The following agencies have standing to request to be made a party to the motion:

(1) any original prosecuting solicitor’s office for an underlying qualifying conviction if not already representing the State;

(2) the local solicitor’s office where the offender resides at the time of the hearing if not already representing the State; or

(3) the Attorney General’s Office if not already representing the State.

(H) If a person is convicted of multiple offenses requiring registration, and the offenses fall within different tiers, the person only may petition for removal of the registration requirement once the required time passes for the highest tier offense they have been convicted of that requires registration.

(I) If the motion is denied, the person may not file for removal from the registry pursuant to this section again until five years after the date of the final order.”

**Release of information**

SECTION 6. Section 23‑3‑490 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 23‑3‑490. (A) Information collected for the offender registry is open to public inspection, and must be made available on the Internet or by other electronic means.

(B) A sheriff or SLED must release information regarding persons required to register under this article to a member of the public if the request is made in writing, or via electronic means on a form prescribed or utilized by SLED. The sheriff must provide the person making the request with the full names of the registered sex offenders, any aliases, any other identifying physical characteristics, each offender’s date of birth, the home address on file, the offense for which the offender was required to register pursuant to Section 23‑3‑430, and the date, city, and state of conviction. A photocopy of a current photograph must also be provided. The sheriff may provide to a newspaper with general circulation within the county a listing of the registry for publication.

A sheriff or SLED who provides the offender registry for publication or a newspaper which publishes the registry, or any portion of it, is not liable and must not be named as a party in an action to recover damages or seek relief for errors or omissions in the publication of the offender registry; however, if the error or omission was done intentionally, with malice, or in bad faith the sheriff or newspaper is not immune from liability.

(C) A person may request on a form prescribed by SLED a list of registered sex offenders residing in a city, county, or zip code zone or a list of all registered sex offenders within the State from SLED. A person may request information regarding a specific person who is required to register under this article from SLED. SLED shall provide the person making the request with the full names of the requested registered sex offenders, any aliases, any other identifying physical characteristics, each offender’s date of birth, the home address on file, the offense for which the offender was required to register pursuant to Section 23‑3‑430, and the date, city, and state of conviction. The State Law Enforcement Division may charge a reasonable fee to cover the cost of copying and distributing sex offender registry lists as provided for in this section. These funds must be used for the sole purpose of offsetting the cost of providing sex offender registry lists.

(D) Nothing in subsection (A) prohibits a sheriff from disseminating information contained in subsection (A) regarding persons who are required to register under this article if the sheriff or another law enforcement officer has reason to believe the release of this information will deter criminal activity or enhance public safety. The sheriff shall notify the principals of public and private schools, and the administrator of child day care centers and family day care centers of any offender whose address is within one‑half mile of the school or business.

(E) For purposes of this article, information on a person adjudicated delinquent in family court for an offense listed in Section 23‑3‑436, and who is required to register under this article, must be made available to the public in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) If a person has been adjudicated delinquent for committing a Tier III offense, information must be made available to the public pursuant to subsections (A), (B), and (C):

(2) Information shall only be made available, upon request, to victims of or witnesses to the offense, public or private schools, child day care centers, family day care centers, businesses or organizations that primarily serve children, women, or vulnerable adults, as defined in Section 43‑35‑10(11), for persons adjudicated delinquent for committing any other offenses requiring registration.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the dissemination of all registry information to law enforcement.

(F) For purposes of this section, use of computerized or electronic transmission of data or other electronic or similar means is permitted.”

**Notification**

SECTION 7. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑538. (A) As contained in this section:

(1) ‘Child‑oriented business’ means any business whose primary service includes the education, care, or entertainment of children including, but not limited to: a school, daycare center, children’s recreational facility, arcade, trampoline park, amusement park, public playground, or mobile food delivery whose primary business is the sale or delivery of ice cream or candy to children.

(2) ‘Children’s recreational facility’ means a facility owned and operated by a city, county, or special purpose district used for the purpose of recreational activity for children under the age of eighteen.

(3) ‘Daycare center’ means an arrangement where, at any one time, there are three or more preschool‑aged children, or nine or more school‑aged children receiving childcare.

(B) It is unlawful for a sex offender who has been convicted of any of the following offenses to operate, work for, be employed by, or volunteer for a child‑oriented business:

(1) criminal sexual conduct with a minor, first degree;

(2) criminal sexual conduct with a minor, second degree;

(3) assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct with a minor;

(4) kidnapping a person under eighteen years of age; or

(5) trafficking in persons of a person under eighteen years of age except when the court makes a finding on the record that the offense did not include a criminal sexual offense or an attempted criminal sexual offense.

(C) If upon registration of a sex offender, or at any other time, a local law enforcement agency determines that a sex offender is in violation of this section, a law enforcement agency or a probation or parole agent must notify the sex offender of the violation. If a person who is required to register under this chapter continues to operate, be employed by, or volunteer for a child‑oriented business after notice, the person, upon conviction, must be punished as follows:

(1) for a first offense, the sex offender is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be imprisoned not more than thirty days, or fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both;

(2) for a second offense, the sex offender is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be imprisoned not more than three years, or fined not more than one thousand dollars, or both;

(3) for a third or subsequent offense, the sex offender is guilty of a felony and must be imprisoned for not more than five years, or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

(D) The owner of any business who knowingly employs a person in violation of this section after receiving notice by a member of law enforcement or other appropriate governmental agency shall be subject to a civil fine of up to one hundred dollars per day.”

**Retroactive application**

SECTION 8. This act is retroactive and shall apply to any resident of this State who currently is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to the provisions of Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23, and who meets the requirements set forth in the act.

**Termination of registration requirements**

SECTION 9. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑437. A juvenile convicted of an offense in family court who is required to register pursuant to the provisions of this article who has his record expunged, sealed, or receives a pardon must be removed from the registry by SLED.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 10. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 18th day of May, 2022.

Approved the 23rd day of May, 2022.

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