

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Judiciary

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to develop means to disclose military convictions for crimes requiring registration as a sex offender.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in numbers of incidents in the military
- Gap in protocol
- Inability of states to protect public safety via proper enforcement of sex offender registration systems
- Possibility of creating military sex offender database for local law enforcement to access
- Possibility of requiring information about conviction on face of military discharge papers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Each state has a sex offender registration system. Persons convicted of crimes that require registration are legally responsible for reporting to local law enforcement and maintaining current information. Correctional facilities and/or post-conviction service providers also communicate with local law enforcement as a safeguard in the event an offender fails to report. However, there is currently no equivalent communication from the federal level to state or local law enforcement about persons convicted while serving in the military, of crimes that require registration as a sex offender; the responsibility rests solely on the offender. Senate Joint Memorial 1 supports the development of a means to disclose such crimes so states may enforce reporting and registration requirements.