

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Hicks, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Mike Schmidt, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	2/28, 4/11, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates a three-tier system for ranking sex offenders based on their risk as established by a designated risk assessment tool. Requires all offenders in current system be reclassified. Offenders classified in the first tier are eligible for relief from reporting obligations five years after the end of their supervision. Offenders classified in the second tier are eligible to apply for reclassification into tier one 10 years after the end of their supervision. Offenders classified in the third tier are eligible to apply to be moved into tier two 10 years after their supervision has ended. Tier 3 offenders are not eligible to apply for total relief from reporting obligations, ever. Offenders convicted of Rape I, Sodomy I, Unlawful Sexual Penetration I, Kidnap I or Burglary I will never be eligible for relief from the obligation to register as a sex offender. Creates requirements for notification of public. Requires all classifications of existing registrants to be completed by December 1, 2016. Makes relief hearings a critical stage that victims must be notified of, and that victims may attend. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Sex Offender registry is growing larger every year without the ability for most to ever be relieved from registration obligations notwithstanding the actual risks they pose to the community.
- Assessing the risk level of offenders before allowing relief from the Sex Offender registry insures that only those that pose low risk to recidivate, and have not done so in at least 5 years since getting off of supervision, will be relieved of their obligation to register.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Exempts the “big 5” crimes (Rape I, Sodomy I, Unlawful Sexual Penetration I, Kidnap I or Burglary I) from ever being eligible for relief from registration. Makes relief hearings a critical stage for victims to ensure they receive notification and have the ability to attend and be heard at the hearing. Requires tier 2 offenders to apply to get into tier 1 after 10 years, and then off of registration 5 years from the time that they became a tier 1 registrant.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2549 A is the product of a two-year workgroup. The challenge faced is that the sex offender rolls are increasing every year, requiring more monitoring and supervision of sex offenders. While at the same time, risk tools show that a large part of the sex offender population are at a low risk to reoffend. Having an increasing amount of sex offenders to supervise is a resource challenge, but more importantly, it makes getting information to the public about the most dangerous and likely to reoffend a greater challenge. This bill would allow resources to be focused on the highest risk to reoffend and allow a path to relief from registration for those who pose the lowest risk to the public.