### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2007

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#### **SENATE BILL 869\***

#### Judiciary I (Civil) Committee Substitute Adopted 5/8/07 Finance Committee Committee Substitute Adopted 7/12/07

Short Title:	Sex Offender/Register E-Mail AddressAB	(Public)
Sponsors:		
Referred to:		

#### March 19, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 2 AN ACT TO ADD FELONY CHILD ABUSE TO THE LIST OF SEX OFFENDER 3 REGISTRY OFFENSES WHEN THE OFFENSE INVOLVES PROSTITUTION 4 OF A JUVENILE OR THE COMMISSION OF A SEXUAL ACT UPON A 5 JUVENILE, TO REQUIRE THAT A SEX OFFENDER REGISTER HIS OR HER 6 ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS OR OTHER ONLINE IDENTIFIER IN THE 7 STATEWIDE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY, TO ALLOW LIMITED RELEASE 8 OF ONLINE IDENTIFIER INFORMATION IN THE SEX OFFENDER 9 REGISTRY TO CERTAIN ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE ELECTRONIC MAIL 10 SERVICES AND OTHER INTERNET SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF 11 SCREENING ONLINE USERS, TO AUTHORIZE THE COURT TO REVOKE 12 ANY AND ALL LICENSING PRIVILEGES HELD BY A SEX OFFENDER WHO 13 FAILS TO REGISTER. TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE 14 COURTS TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES TO **ENSURE TIMELY** 15 NOTIFICATION OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION AND 16 SHERIFFS OF PERSONS REQUIRED TO REGISTER WHO ARE NOT SENTENCED TO ACTIVE TIME, AND TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR THE 17 18 GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION TO USE TO AWARD AS MATCHING 19 GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SHERIFFS' OFFICES TO ENHANCE AND SUPPORT 20 THEIR EFFORTS TO ENFORCE THE STATE'S SEX OFFENDER LAWS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-208.6 reads as rewritten:

#### "§ 14-208.6. Definitions.

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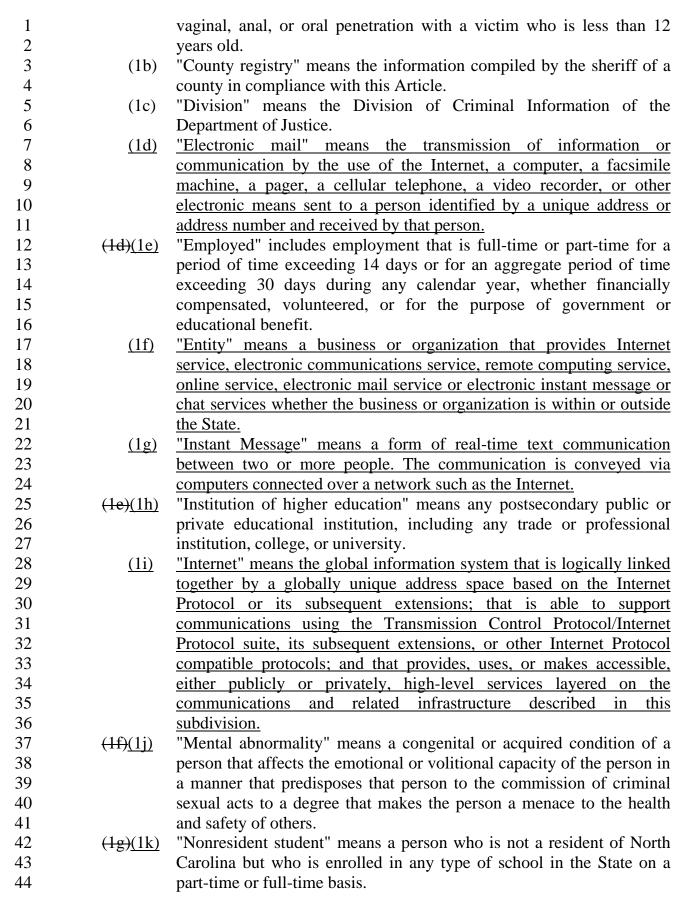
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The following definitions apply in this Article:

(1a) "Aggravated offense" means any criminal offense that includes either of the following: (i) engaging in a sexual act involving vaginal, anal, or oral penetration with a victim of any age through the use of force or the threat of serious violence; or (ii) engaging in a sexual act involving



1 2	<del>(1h)</del> (11)	"Nonresident worker" means a person who is not a resident of North Carolina but who has employment or carries on a vocation in the State,
3		on a part-time or full-time basis, with or without compensation or
4		government or educational benefit, for more than 14 days, or for an
5		aggregate period exceeding 30 days in a calendar year.
6	<del>(1i)</del> (1m)	"Offense against a minor" means any of the following offenses if the
7	\ / <u>\                                  </u>	offense is committed against a minor, and the person committing the
8		offense is not the minor's parent: G.S. 14-39 (kidnapping), G.S. 14-41
9		(abduction of children), and G.S. 14-43.3 (felonious restraint). The
10		term also includes the following if the person convicted of the
11		following is not the minor's parent: a solicitation or conspiracy to
12		commit any of these offenses; aiding and abetting any of these
13		offenses.
14	<u>(1n)</u>	"Online identifier" means electronic mail address, instant message
15	<del></del>	screen name, user ID, chat or other Internet communication name, but
16		it does not mean social security number, date of birth, or pin number.
17	(2)	"Penal institution" means:
18		a. A detention facility operated under the jurisdiction of the
19		Division of Prisons of the Department of Correction;
20		b. A detention facility operated under the jurisdiction of another
21		state or the federal government; or
22		c. A detention facility operated by a local government in this State
23		or another state.
24	(2a)	"Personality disorder" means an enduring pattern of inner experience
25		and behavior that deviates markedly from the expectations of the
26		individual's culture, is pervasive and inflexible, has an onset in
27		adolescence or early adulthood, is stable over time, and leads to
28		distress or impairment.
29	(2b)	"Recidivist" means a person who has a prior conviction for an offense
30		that is described in G.S. 14-208.6(4).
31	(3)	"Release" means discharged or paroled.
32	(4)	"Reportable conviction" means:
33		a. A final conviction for an offense against a minor, a sexually
34		violent offense, or an attempt to commit any of those offenses
35		unless the conviction is for aiding and abetting. A final
36		conviction for aiding and abetting is a reportable conviction
37		only if the court sentencing the individual finds that the
38		registration of that individual under this Article furthers the
39		purposes of this Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5.
40		b. A final conviction in another state of an offense, which if
41		committed in this State, is substantially similar to an offense
42		against a minor or a sexually violent offense as defined by this
43		section, or a final conviction in another state of an offense that

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- requires registration under the sex offender registration statutes of that state.
  - c. A final conviction in a federal jurisdiction (including a court martial) of an offense, which is substantially similar to an offense against a minor or a sexually violent offense as defined by this section.
  - d. A final conviction for a violation of G.S. 14-202(d), (e), (f), (g), or (h), or a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of G.S. 14-202(a), (a1), or (c), only if the court sentencing the individual issues an order pursuant to G.S. 14-202(l) requiring the individual to register.
  - "Sexually violent offense" means a violation of G.S. 14-27.2 (first (5) degree rape), G.S. 14-27.3 (second degree rape), G.S. 14-27.4 (first degree sexual offense), G.S. 14-27.5 (second degree sexual offense), G.S. 14-27.5A (sexual battery), G.S. 14-27.6 (attempted rape or sexual offense), G.S. 14-27.7 (intercourse and sexual offense with certain victims), G.S. 14-27.7A(a) (statutory rape or sexual offense of person who is 13-, 14-, or 15-years-old where the defendant is at least six years older), G.S. 14-43.13 (subjecting or maintaining a person for sexual servitude), G.S. 14-178 (incest between near relatives), G.S. 14-190.6 (employing or permitting minor to assist in offenses against public morality and decency), G.S. 14-190.9(a1)(felonious indecent exposure), G.S. 14-190.16 (first degree sexual exploitation of a minor), G.S. 14-190.17 (second degree sexual exploitation of a minor), G.S. 14-190.17A (third degree sexual exploitation of a minor), G.S. 14-190.18 (promoting prostitution of a minor), G.S. 14-190.19 (participating in the prostitution of a minor), G.S. 14-202.1 (taking indecent liberties with children), or G.S. 14-202.3 (Solicitation of child by computer to commit an unlawful sex act). act), G.S. 14-318.4(a1) (parent or caretaker commit or permit act of prostitution with or by a juvenile), or G.S. 14-318.4(a2) (commission or allowing of sexual act upon a juvenile by parent or guardian). The term also includes the following: a solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses; aiding and abetting any of these offenses.
  - (6) "Sexually violent predator" means a person who has been convicted of a sexually violent offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes the person likely to engage in sexually violent offenses directed at strangers or at a person with whom a relationship has been established or promoted for the primary purpose of victimization.
  - (7) "Sheriff" means the sheriff of a county in this State.
  - (8) "Statewide registry" means the central registry compiled by the Division in accordance with G.S. 14-208.14.

(9) "Student" means a person who is enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis, in any postsecondary public or private educational institution, including any trade or professional institution, or other institution of higher education."

#### **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-208.7(b) reads as rewritten:

- "(b) The Division shall provide each sheriff with forms for registering persons as required by this Article. The registration form shall require: require all of the following:
  - (1) The person's full name, each alias, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye color, hair color, drivers license number, and home address; address.
  - (2) The type of offense for which the person was convicted, the date of conviction, and the sentence <u>imposed</u>; <u>imposed</u>.
  - (3) A current photograph; photograph taken by the sheriff, without charge, at the time of registration.
  - (4) The person's fingerprints; fingerprints taken by the sheriff, without charge, at the time of registration.
  - (5) A statement indicating whether the person is a student or expects to enroll as a student within a year of registering. If the person is a student or expects to enroll as a student within a year of registration, then the registration form shall also require the name and address of the educational institution at which the person is a student or expects to enroll as a student; and student.
  - (6) A statement indicating whether the person is employed or expects to be employed at an institution of higher education within a year of registering. If the person is employed or expects to be employed at an institution of higher education within a year of registration, then the registration form shall also require the name and address of the educational institution at which the person is or expects to be employed.
  - (7) Any online identifier that the person uses or intends to use.

The sheriff shall photograph the individual at the time of registration and take fingerprints from the individual at the time of registration both of which will be kept as part of the registration form. The registrant will not be required to pay any fees for the photograph or fingerprints taken at the time of registration."

#### **SECTION 3.** G.S. 14-208.8(a) reads as rewritten:

- "(a) At least 10 days, but not earlier than 30 days, before a person who will be subject to registration under this Article is due to be released from a penal institution, an official of the penal institution shall:shall do all of the following:
  - (1) Inform the person of the person's duty to register under this Article and require the person to sign a written statement that the person was so informed or, if the person refuses to sign the statement, certify that the person was so informed; informed.

1 2		(2)	Obtain the registration information required under G.S. 14-208.7(b)(1), (2), (5), and (6),(6), and (7), as well as the address where the person
3			expects to reside upon the person's release; and release.
4		(3)	Send the Division and the sheriff of the county in which the person
5			expects to reside the information collected in accordance with
6			subdivision (2) of this subsection."
7			<b>TION 4.</b> The catch line for G.S. 14-208.9 reads as rewritten:
8	"§ 14-20		Change of address; change of academic status or educational
9		_	oyment <del>status.</del> status; change of online identifier."
10			<b>FION 5.</b> G.S. 14-208.9 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
11	" <u>(e)</u>	_	person required to register changes his or her or obtains a new online
12			the person shall, within 10 days, report in person to the sheriff of the
13			om the person registered to provide the new or changed online identifier
14	<u>informati</u>	on to t	he sheriff. The sheriff shall immediately forward this information to the
15	<u>Division.</u>	"	
16		SECT	<b>FION 6.</b> G.S. 14-208.9A(a)(3) reads as rewritten:
17		"(3)	The verification form shall be signed by the person and shall indicate
18			the following:
19			<u>a.</u> <u>whether the person still resides at the address last</u>
20			reported to the sheriff. If the person has a different address, then
21			the person shall indicate that fact and the new address.
22			<u>b.</u> Whether the person still uses or intends to use any online
23			identifiers last reported to the sheriff. If the person has any new
24			or different online identifiers, then the person shall provide
25			those online identifiers to the sheriff."
26		SECT	<b>FION 7.</b> G.S. 14-208.11(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
27	read:		
28		" <u>(10)</u>	Fails to inform the registering sheriff of any new or changes to existing
29			online identifiers that the person uses or intends to use."
30		SECT	<b>FION 8.</b> G.S. 14-208.14(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
31	read:		
32		" <u>(5)</u>	To maintain a system allowing an entity to access a list of online
33			identifiers of persons in the central sex offender registry."
34		SECT	<b>FION 9.</b> Part 2 of Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is
35	amended	by add	ling a new section to read:
36	" <u>§ 14-208</u>	8.15A.	Release of online identifiers to entity; fee.
37	<u>(a)</u>	The	Division may release registry information regarding a registered
38	offender's	s onlin	e identifier to an entity for the purpose of allowing the entity to
39	prescreen	users	or to compare the online identifier information with information held by
40			vided by this section.
41	<u>(b)</u>	An en	ntity desiring to prescreen its users or compare its database of registered
42	users to t		of online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry may apply to the
43			ess the information. An entity that complies with the criteria developed

by the Division regarding the release and use of the online identifier information and

- pays the fee may screen new users or compare its database of registered users to the list of online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry as frequently as the Division may allow for the purpose of identifying a registered user associated with an online identifier contained in the statewide registry.
- (c) The Division may charge an entity that submits a request for the online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Fees collected under this section shall be credited to the Department of Justice and applied to the cost of providing this service.
- (d) The Division shall develop criteria and adopt rules regarding the release and use of online identifier information. The criteria shall include a requirement that the information obtained from the statewide registry shall not be disclosed for any purpose other than for prescreening its users or comparing the database of registered users of the entity against the list of online identifiers of persons in the statewide registry.
- (e) An entity that receives a complaint from a user of the entity's services that a person who has an online identifier subject to registration on the statewide registry uses its service to solicit a minor by computer to commit an unlawful sex act as defined in G.S. 14-202.3 shall report that information to the Cyber Tipline at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children or to the appropriate law enforcement official in this State. The offense is committed in the State for purposes of determining jurisdiction, if the transmission that constitutes the offense either originates in the State or is received in the State.
- (f) An entity that complies with this section in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability resulting from either of the following:
  - (1) The entity's refusal to provide system service to a person on the basis that the entity reasonably believed that the person was subject to registration under State sex offender registry laws.
  - (2) A person's criminal or tortious acts when the person is subject to the State sex offender registry laws, and the person:
    - a. Complied with the requirement to register the person's online identifier, and
    - b. Committed the criminal or tortious acts against a minor with whom the person had communicated on the entity's system by using the person's registered online identifier."

**SECTION 10.** Part 2 of Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

# "§ 14-208.18. Forfeiture of licensing privileges for failure to register on the sex offender and public protection registry.

- (a) <u>Definitions. The following definitions apply in this section:</u>
  - (1) <u>'Licensing board' means a department, division, agency, officer, board, or other unit of State government that issues hunting, fishing, trapping, drivers, or occupational licenses or licensing privileges.</u>
  - (2) <u>'Licensing privilege' means the privilege of a person to be authorized</u> to engage in an activity as evidenced by hunting, fishing, or trapping

- <u>licenses, regular and commercial drivers licenses, and occupational,</u> professional, and business licenses.
  - (3) 'Occupational license' means a license, certificate, permit, registration, or any other authorization issued by a licensing board that allows a person to engage in an occupation or profession.
- (b) Upon a finding by the sentencing judge that a person who has a reportable conviction or is a recidivist has failed to register with the statewide sex offender and public protection registry, and upon findings as to any specific licensing privileges held by the person, the court may revoke some or all of the privileges until the person has registered with the registry. Upon an order revoking the privileges of a person who has failed to register, the clerk of superior court shall notify the appropriate licensing board that the person has failed to register and that the person's licensing privileges are revoked until the licensing board receives proof of certification by the clerk that the person has registered.
- (c) A person may file a request with the clerk of superior court for certification that the person has registered with the statewide registry. A person whose licensing privileges have been revoked under subsection (b) of this section because of a willful failure to comply with the registration requirement may file a request with the clerk of superior court for certification that the person has met the requirements of or is no longer subject to the registry requirement. The clerk shall provide a form to be used for a request for certification. If the clerk finds that the person whose licensing privileges have been revoked under subsection (b) of this section for failure to comply with registering on the statewide registry has complied with or is no longer subject to the registry requirement, then the clerk shall certify that the person has met the requirements of or is no longer subject to the requirements and shall provide a copy of the certification to the person. Upon request of the person, the clerk shall mail a copy of the certification to the appropriate licensing board.
- (d) If licensing privileges are revoked under this section, the person may petition the district court for a reinstatement of the person's privileges. The court may order the privileges reinstated conditioned upon compliance with this Article. The court may order the privileges reinstated if the person has complied with or is no longer subject to the registry requirement. Upon reinstatement of the person whose licensing privileges were revoked based on failure to comply with this Article, the clerk of superior court shall certify that the person has complied with or is no longer subject to the requirements of this Article and provide a copy of the certification to the person. Upon request of the person whose licensing privileges are reinstated, the clerk shall mail a copy of the certification to the appropriate licensing board.
- (e) A person whose licensing privileges are reinstated under this section may provide a copy of the certification set forth in either subsection (c) or (d) of this section to each licensing agency to which the person applies for reinstatement of licensing privileges. Upon request of the person, the clerk shall mail a copy of the certification to the appropriate licensing board. Upon receipt of a copy of the certification, the licensing board shall reinstate the license.

(f) Upon receipt of notification by the clerk that a person's licensing privileges are revoked pursuant to this section, the board shall note the revocation on its records and take all necessary steps to implement and enforce the revocation. These steps shall not include the board's independent revocation process pursuant to Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, the Administrative Procedure Act, which process is replaced by the court process prescribed by this section. The revocation pertaining to a person shall remain in full force and effect until the board receives certification under this section that the person has complied with the requirements of this Article. The revocation pertaining to the person whose licensing privileges were revoked on the basis of failure to comply with this Article shall remain in full force and effect until the board receives certification of reinstatement under subsection (d) of this section."

**SECTION 11.** Chapter 93B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

## "§ 93B-13.1. Revocation when licensing privilege forfeited for failure to register on the sex offender and public protection registry.

- (a) Upon receipt of a court order pursuant to G.S. 14-208.18 or notice that an individual has failed to register on the statewide registry as required, the occupational license of a licensee under its jurisdiction shall be revoked. An occupational licensing board shall note the revocation in its records, report the action within 30 days to the Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Statistics, and follow the normal postrevocation rules and procedures of the board as if the revocation had been ordered by the board. The revocation shall remain in effect until the board receives certification by the clerk of superior court or the Division of Criminal Statistics that the licensee has complied with the registry requirements under Part 2 of Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes or is no longer subject to the registry requirements that were the basis for the revocation.
- (b) If at the time the court revokes a license pursuant to subsection (a) of this section the occupational licensing board has revoked the same license under the licensing board's disciplinary authority over licensees under its jurisdiction and that revocation period is greater than the revocation period resulting from forfeiture pursuant to G.S. 14-208.18, then the revocation period imposed by the occupational licensing board applies. If the period during which the license was revoked was less than two years, the board shall reinstate the license. If, however, the period of revocation was greater than two years, the board may, in its discretion, require the licensee to demonstrate competence as a condition of reinstatement.
- (c) If at the time the court revokes a license pursuant to subsection (a) of this section the occupational licensing board has taken disciplinary action pursuant to the same license under the licensing board's disciplinary authority over licensees under its jurisdiction and the duration of that disciplinary action is greater than the revocation period resulting from forfeiture pursuant to G.S. 14-208.18, then the board shall have no obligation to reinstate the license as provided in subsection (b) of this section, and the disciplinary action imposed by the board shall continue in effect."
- **SECTION 12.** By December 1, 2007, the Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the North Carolina Department of Justice, North Carolina

Department of Correction, and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association shall develop a procedure to ensure timely notification to the Division of Criminal Information, Department of Justice, and to sheriffs regarding any person subject to registration under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes who does not receive an active term of imprisonment, as specified in G.S. 14-208.7(a).

**SECTION 13.(a)** Funds are authorized to be allocated to the Governor's Crime Commission for award as grants to eligible sheriffs' offices to assist with the enforcement of the State's sex offender laws. The grants shall be awarded specifically to enhance and support law efforts by sheriffs to do the following: (i) process and conduct in-person sex offender registrations, (ii) monitor compliance of sex offenders as required under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, and (iii) conduct activities to investigate and apprehend persons who commit reportable offenses as defined under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes. Eligible sheriffs' offices are required to provide non-State matching funds equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant amount awarded under this section, one-half of which may be in in-kind contributions.

**SECTION 13.(b)** The Commission shall establish the criteria regarding the eligibility and amount of the awards for the grants described in this section. The grant criteria shall include consideration of all of the following:

- (1) The number of convicted sex offenders in the county of the applicant.
- (2) The level of community support for the grant award.
- (3) Whether the application identifies a problem that is consistent with the purposes of this initiative.
- (4) The development and maintenance by the applicant with other public safety agencies to regularly exchange information and intelligence.
- (5) Whether the application articulates clearly the jurisdiction's goals, outcomes, and objectives and describes the accountability system and performance measures to determine progress towards achieving them.

**SECTION 13.(c)** Any grants allocated shall not revert to the General Fund but shall remain with the Commission for the purposes described in this section.

**SECTION 13.(d)** The grant funds described by this section shall supplement, and not supplant, existing funds and services provided for the tracking of registered sex offenders. The grants shall be subject to established fiscal controls, annual reporting, and accountability requirements specified by the Commission.

**SECTION 13.(e)** This section is effective only if funds are appropriated to implement it. Nothing in this section shall obligate or require the State to appropriate funds for the purposes set forth in the section.

**SECTION 14.** Sections 12 and 14 of this act are effective when they become law. Section 13 of this act becomes effective August 1, 2007. The remainder of this act becomes effective December 1, 2007, and applies to persons who are required to register under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes on or after that date. The requirements related to online identifiers apply to persons whose initial registration under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes occurs on or after December 1, 2007, and to persons who are registered under Article 27 of Chapter 14 of the General

## **General Assembly of North Carolina**

Session 2007

- 1 Statutes as of December 1, 2007, but only after the first verification of registration that
- 2 occurs on or after that date.