

SB

326



Alaska State Legislature

Senate

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Sponsor Statement SB 326

“An Act relating to requirements for registration of sex offenders.”

Senate Bill 326 requires those persons convicted of sex crimes to register prior to their release from a Correctional Institution within the State of Alaska. This legislation also accelerates the time frame for registration by sex offenders who move into the state, as well as those who are not sentenced to jail time.

SB 326, when enacted, will require persons convicted of sex crimes to register at least 10 days before release from an Alaska institution. Current law requires registration within 7 days of release from an institution. The public feels that many sex offenders simply disappear and never register. It is estimated that between 800 and 1700 sex offenders living in Alaska are not registered. Many of these are thought to have been convicted prior to the registration laws being introduced, or they moved from the state, are deceased or simply ignored the registration laws. This bill will insure that this number does not grow as a result of newly released inmates. Once a person has been released, extensive resources must be expended to find the offenders who choose not to register. Due to privacy laws, until a sex offender is registered, information on the offender cannot be entered on the Internet or made available to the public.

SB 326 also requires a shortened registration period, for those convicted of sex crimes that are not sentenced to do jail time, to 24 hours of that conviction. Currently, this group has 7 days to register. In addition, SB 326 will require sex offenders who move into the State of Alaska to register within 7 days instead of the 14 days now required.

SB 326 will greatly enhance the confidence that the people of Alaska have in the system designed to protect them from dangerous sexual predators.