

**SB**

**185**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/3/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 185

SB 185 SEX OFFENDER/CHILD KIDNAPPER REGISTRATION

"An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS SB 185 (STA)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

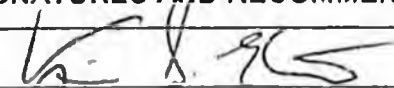


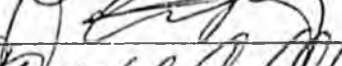
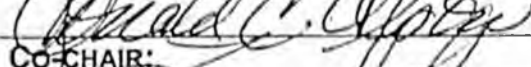


**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
COR	4/8/08			✓	
ADM	2/4/08			✓	

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
ADM	1/28/08			✓	2
LAW	2/22/08			✓	3
DPS	2/28/08	✓			4

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson	✓			
	Huggins	✓			
	OLSON	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 		✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	STEDMINN	✓			

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: SB 185  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB185-DOA-OPA-2-04-08 Dept. Affected: Administration  
Title: "An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers..." RDU: Legal and Advocacy Services  
Component: Office of Public Advocacy  
Sponsor: Senator Wielechowski  
Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component Number: 43

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill expands the requirements for sex offender registration by adding the requirement of providing any electronic messaging address or internet identifier or any change in this information, and it amends the crime of failure to register as a sex offender or child kidnapper accordingly. While it is possible that this bill could have a fiscal impact on the agency by expanding the conduct that could trigger prosecution for failure to register as a sex offender, it cannot be predicted at this time. Therefore, OPA submits a zero fiscal note.

Prepared by: Joshua P. Fink, Director  
Division: Office of Public Advocacy  
Approved by: Rachael Petro, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone: 907-269-3501  
Date/Time: 2/4/08, 12:00 p.m.  
Date: 2/4/2008

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: SB185-DOC-OC-02-08-08  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB185-DOC-OC-02-08-08 Dept. Affected: Corrections  
Title: "An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers." RDU: Administration and Operations  
Component: Office of the Commissioner  
Sponsor: Senators Wielechowski & Ellis  
Requester: Senate State Affairs Component Number: 694

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation should have no fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections.

Prepared by: Sharleen Gillin, Director  
Division: Administrative Services  
Approved by: Dwayne Peoples, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Corrections

Phone: (907) 465-3339  
Date/Time: 2/8/08 1:25 PM  
Date: 2/8/2008

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
Bill Version: CSSB 185(STA)  
(S) Publish Date: 2/19/08

Identifier (file name): SB185-DOA-PDA-1-28-08 Dept. Affected: Administration  
Title: "An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers..." RDU: Legal and Advocacy Services  
Component: Public Defender Agency  
Sponsor: Senator Wielechowski  
Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component Number: 1631

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill amends the requirements for sex offense registration by adding the requirement of providing any electronic messaging address or internet identifier or any change in this information, and amends the crime of failure to register as a sex offender or child kidnapper accordingly. This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Agency.

Prepared by: Quinlan Steiner, Director  
Division: Public Defender Agency  
Approved by: Rachael Petro, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone 907-334-4414  
Date/Time 1/28/08 11:00 AM  
Date 1/28/2008

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3  
Bill Version: CSSB 185(STA)  
(S) Publish Date: 3/3/08

Identifier (file name): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: LAW  
Title An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers. RDU Criminal  
Component Criminal Justice Litigation  
Sponsor SENATOR(S) WIELECHOWSKI  
Requester SENATE JUDICIARY Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*  
SB 185 amends the crime of failure to register as a sex offender by providing that failure to submit an electronic address or a change of electronic address would be prohibited. The department does not expect a significant fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

Prepared by: Robert Meiners, Administrative Services Manager  
Division: Administrative Services Division  
Approved by: Talis Colberg, Attorney General  
Department of Law

Phone 907-465-5427  
Date/Time 2/22/08 1:40 PM  
Date 2/22/2008

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4  
Bill Version: CSSB 185(STA)  
(S) Publish Date: 3/3/08

Identifier (file name): SB185CS(STA)-DPS-R&I-02-28-08 Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
Title: "An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers." RDU: Statewide Support  
Component: Records & Identification  
Sponsor: Senator Wielechowski  
Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee Component Number: 1190

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual	42.0		42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	42.0							
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation requires sex offenders and child kidnappers to provide more extensive registration information than is currently required under AS 12.63.010 and consequently collected and maintained by the department.

Sex offender and child kidnapper registration information is entered into and maintained electronically in the state's central criminal history repository, the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN). Information is obtained from forms completed by offenders at initial registration, annual or quarterly verification, and upon a qualifying change in the offender's information. (Continued)

Prepared by: David Schado, Director  
Division: Statewide Services  
Approved by: Walt Monegan, Commissioner  
Department of Public Safety

Phone: (907) 269-0202  
Date/Time: 2/28/08 8:50 AM  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE # 4

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 185(STA)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

This legislation will require the department to revise its forms to include fields for offenders to report all Internet identifiers and addresses (e.g. email and instant messaging addresses) used by the offender. There is no fiscal impact anticipated as a result of making the forms revisions.

Significant new business logic would be needed to capture, manage, and interpret timeframes associated with various Internet identifiers. In addition to email and instant messaging addresses, Internet identifiers include any designations or monikers used for self-identification in Internet communications or postings on social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn) and gaming (WoW, Second Life), potentially thousands per user, each with a variety of properties. Because the Internet is very dynamic with new services being created monthly (many of which quickly have millions of registrants) there will be an ongoing requirement to add new Internet identifiers and types to any database system that needs to track this information.

For the first year, considerable analysis, programming, and data entry changes in APSIN and the Sex Offender Registration (SOR) office's application will be necessary to add data fields for the entry of all Internet identifiers and addresses reported as being used by an offender. The programming changes and associated costs assume that the data is for the mainframe APSIN system and the SOR office application only. Changes to the public website display are not included nor are the cost of any reports. Costs are based on \$85 per hour.

Computation:

- Analysis during project: 80 hours
- Modify mainframe and screens (new screen for amount of data) and database to capture and store updates: 120 hours
- Mainframe database coordination and program moves: 40 hours
- Modify the migration process of mainframe data to the data warehouse: 40 hours
- Modify SOR office application to store and display the additional fields: up to 80 hours
- Final testing: 40 hours
- Initial operating costs: 95 hours

Ongoing operating costs (200 hours per year), additional storage, backup, and data management is estimated to cost \$42,000 annually.

# AK Senate Bipartisan Working Group

Cowdery Davis Ellis Elton French Green Hoffman Huggins Kookesh McGuire Olson Stedman Stevens  
Thomas Wielechowski

Today is Jan. 23rd



## Alaska State Legislature



### Senator Bill Wielechowski

**Press Release • July 19, 2007**

CONTACT: [Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us) • Room 115 Capitol Bldg. • (907) 465-2435

## ***Bill Prefiled for Upcoming Session Would Require Sex Offenders to Register e-mail Addresses***

### **Helps Law Enforcement to Track Predators in Cyberspace**

(ANCHORAGE) – A bill to help prevent online sexual predators from preying on children or anyone else is being prepared by Sen. Bill Wielechowski (D – Anchorage) for the 2008 legislative session. The bill requires convicted sexual offenders and child kidnappers to register their e-mail addresses, instant messaging addresses or any other Internet communication identifiers with the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

"The Internet has become a hunting ground for sex offenders and they're preying on our children," said Wielechowski. "Nationwide, one in five children have been sexually solicited online; and Alaska has the highest rate of internet use per capita."

The legislation also requires the sex offender or child kidnapper to notify the department in writing within five days of any changes to their e-mail address or identifier.

Arizona, Kentucky and Virginia already require sex offenders to register their e-mail addresses and at least a dozen other states are considering similar legislation. The popular networking site MySpace.com is on the record supporting this type of legislation.

Senator Wielechowski has pre-filed this legislation for the upcoming 2008 session.

For more information, contact Senator Wielechowski at (907) 269-0120.

###

- Print Forward this page
- [http://www.aksenate.org/wielechowski/071907\\_prefiled\\_bill\\_sex\\_offender\\_register.pdf](http://www.aksenate.org/wielechowski/071907_prefiled_bill_sex_offender_register.pdf)

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America's Newspapers

## SEXUAL PREDATORS RIDE THE INTERNET INTO HOMES ACROSS AMERICA

Seattle Post-Intelligencer - May 6, 1997

Author: VANESSA HO, P-I Reporter

When a Federal Way mother posed as a teenager online to catch her son's molester, she also put the spotlight on the problem of sexual predators finding victims on the Internet.

The Internet and online services offer instant access to the world, but authorities say that access has a price: It's an easy way for predators to enter the homes of teens and children, who think nothing of spending hours talking with strangers at their computer keyboards. Through the unreined world of chat rooms, predators lure children with promises of support, money and a new home, experts say. In some cases, they molest them, or exploit them with pornography; in other cases, teens run away to be with them.

"It's a systemic problem, it's very bad, and we in the FBI are taking it very seriously," said Larry Foust, spokesman for the FBI Baltimore division in Maryland, where an Internet-related abduction and murder of a child in 1993 prompted a national investigation into online pedophiles.

Investigators were shocked at how widespread the crimes were, Foust said. "And it was only the tip of the iceberg." So far, the investigation has resulted in 96 arrests for child pornography or for luring a child across state lines for illicit sex. There have been 89 convictions.

Foust said that in one case, two suspects not only lured children through the Internet and then molested them, but also took pictures of them to distribute online.

He said sexual predation on the Internet is worse than on the streets "because you can lock your door and stay inside, and they can still penetrate the sanctity of your house."

Millions of people use the Internet, and most do so with no problems, authorities say. But cases of online crimes serve as a reminders of danger:

In February, a man was arrested in California after communicating with a 13-year-old boy for three months and flying across the country to meet him for a sexual encounter.

In December, a Connecticut man was arrested after talking online with a 13-year-old girl, sending her indecent material and driving 100 miles to meet her for sex.

Last month, a 14-year-old girl from suburban Rochester, N.Y., returned home after disappearing for four months with a 22-year-old Air Force deserter she met in a chat room devoted to vampire fantasies.

In 1995, Daniel Montgomery, a 15-year-old Maple Valley boy, ran away for two weeks to San Francisco to meet someone he met online.

The growing number of cases also illuminates hurdles facing police agencies, which often lack resources and money to investigate online crimes.

"We see that this is a growing problem, and it's something we'll be dealing with more and more," said Casey Johnson, a detective with the King County police Special Assault Unit. "The problem is money and bodies."

In the Federal Way case, the mother, posing as a teenager, received sexually explicit messages from the man and an offer to meet face-to-face and have sex. When the meeting was arranged last month, an undercover police officer arrested him. The man, Otis Fellows, pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree child molestation, which stemmed from an incident in 1993. He faces sentencing on May 23.

Some online encounters between adults and children have resulted in heartache for parents, such as Kathy Newell of Eugene, Ore.

Last year, her 14-year-old daughter Channa befriended a 24-year-old woodworker in a chat room. A shaggy redhead who sometimes masqueraded as a medieval knight, the man came by to visit, and Newell said no way.

"I said, 'This girl is off-limits to you,' " she said. Her daughter didn't agree, and one morning last May, the man drove by Channa's high school, picked her up and disappeared.

"(Police) say she chose to go with him, but I say she was lured," Newell said.

At the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "online luring" makes up a small part of the center's overall cases, but the problems are increasing, said Gary Costello, director of the child exploitation unit at the Arlington, Va.-based center, a national clearinghouse for parents whose children have run away or were abducted.

This year, the center has received 11 reports of online luring, in which a child ran away after meeting an adult in cyberspace. Last year, the center handled seven such cases.

Although some teens have voluntarily left home, Costello treats them as children who were lured, as opposed to children who ran away.

"If someone came into the neighborhood, ended up talking to a child, befriending them, enticing them with promises of money and a better life, would you treat the case any differently?" he asked.

Parents should take a greater interest in their children's computer activities, Costello said. Often, when children spend hours alone on a computer, parents have no idea who they are meeting.

"Picture it like this: Would you let your 9- to 14-year-old go to the worst part of Seattle and walk the streets in the middle of the night?

"That's what chat rooms are like, but the child can't see who is walking toward him," he said.

Johnson, the detective with the King County police Special Assault Unit, said online predators often target emotionally vulnerable children, who come from unstable families and have low self-esteem. So when an adult offers support, money and a new home, the child is at a disadvantage.

"When you get an adult who is methodically pulling a child out of his home, for whatever reasons, that's exploitation," he said.

#### Tips for parents

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children offers these tips for parents to help children have safe cyber-chats.

Never give out personal information such as address, phone number or school name before verifying the receiver of the information.

Get to know the services your child uses. Learn how to log on. Find out what types of information the services offer and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material.

Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. Make sure the first meeting is in a public spot and be sure to accompany the child.

Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening or make you feel uncomfortable. If you receive one, forward a copy to your service provider.

More of the center's tips can be found at its site: <http://www.missingkids.org/childsafety.html>

Another helpful Web site is <http://www.yahooligans.com/docs/safety>

America Online offers members resources on how to report a violation in a chat room and what to do if a harassing message is received.

It also offers "parental controls" that restrict a child's access, with the caveat: "It's important to note that no system of controls makes up for good old-fashioned parental supervision."

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***Section: News***

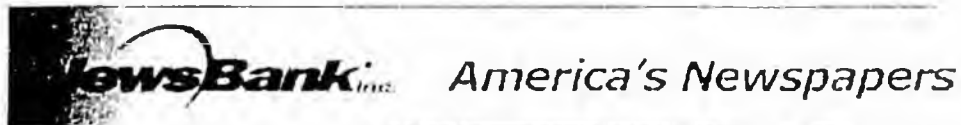
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***Index Terms: TIPS, INTERNET, SEX CRIME, CHILDREN, SUMMARY, STATISTIC***

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## Cyber-stalking

News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) - July 30, 2007

Child predators didn't spring up from the fertile soil of the Internet. Physical and sexual abuse of children are age-old problems. But the Internet has brought a whole new aspect to child predation.

Computers in the home are ubiquitous. Kids easily master the machines, and they find the technology inviting. Meanwhile, adults who make it their business to become experts at stalking children have discovered social networking sites that are popular with young people. Using the sites, stalkers can zero in on kids from several states away, in relative anonymity, rather than from the bench near the swing set at the neighborhood park.

If there were any questions about the extent of the problem, good work by state Attorney General Roy Cooper has pried loose an answer. To combat predators, Cooper and attorneys general from several other states asked one of the more popular social sites, MySpace, to reveal the names of sex offenders who use the site. MySpace reluctantly complied in May, reporting about 7,000 offenders across the country on the site (245 of them were sex offenders registered in North Carolina).

The company updated its list last week. It now says that more than 29,000 offenders have MySpace profiles. And MySpace is just one of several social sites. Two years ago, a 34-year-old former Wake County sheriff's deputy posed as a 19-year-old N.C. State University student on several sites, including MySpace. Today he is in prison for persuading two Triangle boys he met online, ages 14 and 15, to have sex with him.

The attorneys general are pressing for better regulation of the networking sites, both by the companies that operate them and in state law. Cooper wants North Carolina legislators to require parental permission for youngsters to create a profile. He combines that effort with an educational campaign showing parents and teachers how kids can surf the Web safely.

Cooper also is pushing a bill that would require convicted sex offenders who create profiles to provide authorities with their e-mail addresses and all other on-line identifiers. As it stands now, offenders must tell the public where they live and when they move to a new neighborhood. But they can mask themselves as a teen on the Internet and prey on youngsters with impunity. The bill deserves approval.

Some lawyers and online companies complain that Cooper's efforts endanger the First Amendment rights of corporations. So far there's no overreaching on the attorney general's part.

At the same time, Internet companies need to design their sites with the vulnerability of youngsters in mind. Sexual crimes and violence against kids have exploded as the Internet has matured.

If foot-dragging lawmakers need help deciding whether to vote for Cooper's initiative, here's an aid: Put Internet firms on one side of the scale, and vulnerable youngsters at risk of being sexually assaulted or killed by predators on the other. Cooper's instincts are right.

*Edition: Final*

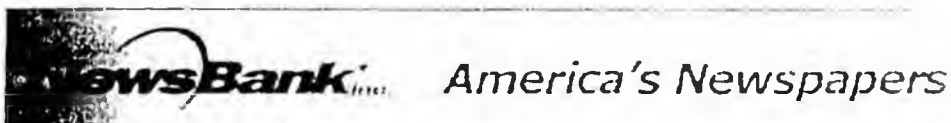
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## 'THESE PREDATORS ARE NO LONGER ISOLATED'

Maine Sunday Telegram (Portland, ME) - October 11, 1998

Author: ERIC BLOM Staff Writer

The Internet has become a refuge for child molesters, a place to seek shelter from the social isolation and anger they often confront in real life.

Known molesters can be threatened by neighbors, featured on police handbills when they move into a neighborhood, harassed by fellow prisoners in jail, and isolated by watchful parents who tell children not to talk with strangers on the street. Online, predators are safe in the anonymity of made-up screen names. They can identify and target children at will. Pedophiles can share encouragement, support and advice with one another, describing child sexual abuse as pleasurable and natural, even beneficial to children.

"These predators are no longer isolated. They're part of a community on the Internet," said Colin Gabriel Hatcher, executive director of Cyberangels, a division of the Guardian Angels.

The most direct threat to children is online predation. Adults with a sexual interest in children can identify, contact and groom potential victims via the Internet.

No one is sure how common online predation has become. It's clearly involved in a small minority of all child sexual assaults.

Still, advocates for children say that online predation represents an entirely new kind of threat and poses risks that are difficult to address. The danger is growing as more children, and more adults with a sexual interest in children, go online.

"It has provided a whole new, additional venue for (predators) to operate," said Peter Banks, director of training for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Child molesters go where the children are, and the children are in cyberville."

Online predation also may be much more common than is generally recognized, he and other advocates for children said.

The anonymity of computer networks, the secretive nature of child sexual predators and the shame felt by many victims conspire to keep formal complaints down and the activity hidden.

"The number of people who are arrested is a very small number compared to the number of offenders out there," said Capt. Richard Wallikas of the Broome County (N.Y.) Sheriff's Department, which has an ongoing undercover operation online.

Banks agreed that police complaints are a poor measure of the problem.

"We don't fully understand, because of the nature of sexual victimization, how big a problem this is," Banks said. "Probably only one in 10 crimes gets reported."

Indeed, many of the incidents thus far have been discovered almost by accident.

For example, in July, Massachusetts police discovered that a 37-year-old Michigan man had met at least

two teen-age girls -- from Massachusetts and Georgia -- online and traveled to have sex with them. The man was caught after a sheriff's deputy saw a 16-year-old girl, chased by her father, running toward the man's car with a suitcase. The deputy became suspicious and accosted the driver.

Increasingly, online predation also is being detected through electronic undercover police operations.

Most recently, on Sept. 14, police arrested a Portland man on charges of distributing child pornography to an undercover police detective in New Hampshire. The Keene, N.H., detective was posing as a 14-year-old boy.

Michael Weeks, 23, allegedly sent the detective photos depicting boys involved in sex acts, said Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood. Weeks also has been charged with molesting a 10-year-old Portland boy.

## INFORMATION HIGHWAY

### GETS THE WORD OUT

Direct contact between adult predators and children is not the only danger posed by online computer networks. Children also are threatened by the online communities that sexual predators are building on the Internet.

These burgeoning online pedophile networks indirectly threaten all children, not just those who use computers, said many advocates for children, federal police and social scientists.

Historically, shame and public condemnation have kept many pedophiles from assaulting children. Society uniformly condemns adult-child sex. Pedophiles seldom encounter other people who admit to a sexual desire for children, much less the illegal acts of raping, molesting or exploiting them.

"Traditionally, a good social control for pedophiles is condemnation," said Keith Durkin, a sociologist who has studied the use of online computers by pedophiles. "This has to be the most condemned form of human sexual behavior that there is."

The mainstream online community also condemns child molestation. Thousands of Web sites and forums have been established to fight the problem. Offenders' names are even being published on Web sites such as the one run by the Bangor Police Department.

However, in many other corners of the Internet, child molesters find advice and support that was not available to them prior to the growth of online computing.

"There's nothing to stop someone from advocating really horrible crimes against children" online, said Tracey O'Connell-Jay, executive director of WebWise Kids and the sister of a girl lured from home by an online predator in another state.

The Internet allows anyone to publish anything, of any length, for very little money. Freedom of speech is protected by the U.S. Constitution, even speech advocating child sexual abuse.

More than 8,000 sites on the World Wide Web encourage adults to have sex with children.

Some of these Web pages tell young people that they should never reveal their "secret" relationship with an adult. This is the opposite message from the one that child advocates say children need to hear. Other sites tell pedophiles how to locate school or playground addresses online before going away on vacation.

"These pages link to legitimate sites like Disney. Hello! If that doesn't raise red flags, I don't know what

will," said Debbie Mahoney, a California woman whose 12-year-old son was sexually assaulted by a man who later was charged with distributing child pornography online. Mahoney is founder of the advocacy group, Safeguarding Our Children -- United Mothers.

Newsgroups allow pedophiles from around the world to anonymously exchange messages of solace, share tips on how to lure children into sexual encounters and trade information on police strategies. Newsgroups are electronic bulletin boards where people from around the world post messages for others to read.

Durkin studied one such newsgroup in 1996 -- early in the growth of Internet popularity -- and found that it received about 200 new postings a month. He had no way to determine how many people read the postings without submitting their own messages.

Most of the people who posted articles admitted to being pedophiles. Many of their messages sought support from other newsgroup readers. A quarter of the users said they wanted to contact other pedophiles via telephone, mail, in-person meetings or electronic mail, Durkin found.

"Preferential child molesters who target boys have the capacity to victimize hundreds of young males," Durkin wrote in *Pedophiles in Cyberspace*, which is his article on the newsgroup. "If computer groups such as (this one) inspire only a few pedophiles to molest children, this would translate into hundreds -- even thousands -- of victims."

#### FINDING VALIDATION

#### FOR CRIMES, URGES

Other experts agree that propaganda advocating adult-child sex can increase the abuse of children.

"There's no crime in being a pedophile and suffering from those urges," said Douglas Rehman, a former Florida state police officer with extensive experience in online undercover operations.

"What you've got is people who have it under control before they get online and then they see there are all these other people with the same urges and interests."

Kenneth Lanning of the FBI Behavioral Science Unit explained the psychology behind this in his monograph, "Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis."

Many child molesters, he wrote, "spend their lives attempting to convince themselves that they are not immoral, not sexual deviants, or not criminals."

"They prefer to believe that they are high-minded, loving individuals whose behavior is misunderstood or politically incorrect at this time in history," Lanning wrote.

The Internet has made it possible for many more pedophiles to receive that kind of validation for their crimes from groups such as the North American Man Boy Love Association, or NAMBLA, which advocates adult-child sex.

"A group like NAMBLA now has an audience beyond its mailing list," Durkin said.

Literature from NAMBLA -- along with child pornography -- was found in the car allegedly used to transport 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley's body to the Great Works River in Maine after his murder and subsequent sexual assault last autumn. Charges are pending against two men in that case. It is not yet clear whether the material allegedly found in their possession came from the Internet or through the mail.

Still, material like the propaganda and pornography found in their vehicle is widely available online. And that material helps reduce the social control of shunning and shame that keeps many pedophiles from acting on their sexual impulses.

"These people who were hiding under a rock someplace are actively out there communicating with each other" and with children, Mahoney said.

**Memo:** The graphic accompanying this article HOW TO PROTECT CHILDREN must be read on microfilm

**Edition:** CITY

**Section:** FRONT

**Page:** 7A

**Series:** DANGER ONLINE Technology's threat to children

**Record Number:** 0002230511

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