

SB

185

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 1/16/08

FURTHER: Judiciary
Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 01/19/08

State Affairs 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 SB 185 (STA)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
HOUSE BILL:	
<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#
DPS	02/07/08	✓			
Admin	01/28/08			✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	French	X			
	Jenkins	X			
	Blende			✓	
CHAIR:	McBuire	✓			

25-LS0985\M
Luckhaupt
2/13/08

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 185()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers; and providing for an effective**
2 **date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 11.56.840(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:**

5 **(a) A person commits the crime of failure to register as a sex offender or child**
6 **kidnapper in the second degree if the person fails, as required by AS 12.63.010, to**

7 **(1) register;**

8 **(2) file written notice of**

9 **(A) change of residence;**

10 **(B) change of mailing address;**

11 **(C) establishment of an electronic or messaging address or any**
12 **change to an electronic or messaging address; or**

13 **(D) establishment of an Internet communication identifier or**
14 **any change to an Internet communication identifier;**

- 1 (3) file the annual or quarterly written verification; or
2 (4) supply accurate and complete information required to be submitted
3 under (1) - (3) of this subsection.

4 * Sec. 2. AS 12.63.010(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) A sex offender or child kidnapper required to register under (a) of this
6 section shall register with the Department of Corrections if the sex offender or child
7 kidnapper is incarcerated or in person at the Alaska state trooper post or municipal
8 police department located nearest to where the sex offender or child kidnapper resides
9 at the time of registration. To fulfill the registration requirement, the sex offender or
10 child kidnapper shall

11 (1) complete a registration form that includes, at a minimum,

12 (A) the sex offender's or child kidnapper's name, address, place
13 of employment, and date of birth;

14 (B) each conviction for a sex offense or child kidnapping for
15 which the duty to register has not terminated under AS 12.63.020, the date of
16 the sex offense or child kidnapping convictions, the place and court of the sex
17 offense or child kidnapping convictions, and whether the sex offender or child
18 kidnapper has been unconditionally discharged from the conviction for a sex
19 offense or child kidnapping and the date of the unconditional discharge; if the
20 sex offender or child kidnapper asserts that the offender or kidnapper has been
21 unconditionally discharged, the offender or kidnapper shall supply proof of
22 that discharge acceptable to the department;

23 (C) all aliases used;

24 (D) the sex offender's or child kidnapper's driver's license
25 number;

26 (E) the description, license numbers, and vehicle identification
27 numbers of motor vehicles the sex offender or child kidnapper has access to,
28 regardless of whether that access is regular or not;

29 (F) any identifying features of the sex offender or child
30 kidnapper;

31 (G) anticipated changes of address; [AND]

1 (H) a statement concerning whether the offender or kidnapper
2 has had treatment for a mental abnormality or personality disorder since the
3 date of conviction for an offense requiring registration under this chapter; **and**

4 **(I) each electronic mail address, instant messaging address,**
5 **and other Internet communication identifier used by the sex offender or**
6 **child kidnapper;**

7 (2) allow the Alaska state troopers, Department of Corrections, or
8 municipal police to take a complete set of the sex offender's or child kidnapper's
9 fingerprints and to take the sex offender's or child kidnapper's photograph.

10 * Sec. 3. AS 12.63.010(c) is amended to read:

11 (c) If a sex offender or child kidnapper changes residence after having
12 registered under (a) of this section, the sex offender or child kidnapper shall provide
13 written notice of the change by the next working day following the change to the
14 Alaska state trooper post or municipal police department located nearest to the new
15 residence or, if the residence change is out of state, to the central registry. **If a sex**
16 **offender or child kidnapper establishes or changes an electronic mail address,**
17 **instant messaging address, or other Internet communication identifier, the sex**
18 **offender or child kidnapper shall, by the next working day, notify the department**
19 **in writing of the changed or new address or identifier.**

20 * Sec. 4. AS 18.65.087 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 (i) Notwithstanding (b) of this section,

22 (1) the department may provide a method for, or may participate in a
23 federal program that allows, the public to submit an electronic or messaging address or
24 Internet identifier and receive a confirmation of whether the address or identifier
25 belongs to a registered sex offender or child kidnapper;

26 (2) the department may provide electronic or messaging addresses and
27 Internet communication identifiers in the central registry to Internet service providers
28 and Internet security firms to assist those entities in preventing children from receiving
29 communications from registered sex offenders and child kidnappers and to warn the
30 public that persons with those addresses or identifiers are registered sex offenders or
31 child kidnappers.

1 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 **APPLICABILITY.** (a) This Act applies to persons convicted of sex offenses or child
4 kidnapping before, on, or after the effective date of this Act whose duty to register as a sex
5 offender or child kidnapper has not expired under AS 12.63.010(d)(1) on the effective date of
6 this Act.

7 (b) Notwithstanding AS 11.56.840(a), repealed and reenacted by sec. 1 of this Act,
8 and AS 12.63.010(c), amended by sec. 3 of this Act, a sex offender or child kidnapper whose
9 duty to register as a sex offender or child kidnapper arose

10 (1) on or before December 31, 2008, does not have to initially report
11 electronic or messaging addresses or Internet communication identifiers to the Department of
12 Public Safety until the date that the sex offender or child kidnapper's next annual, or quarterly
13 if applicable, written verification is due; after the initial report of addresses and identifiers is
14 due, the sex offender or child kidnapper shall report the establishment of an electronic or
15 messaging address, or any changes to those addresses, or the establishment of an Internet
16 communication identifier, or any change to an identifier, as required by AS 11.56.840 and
17 AS 12.63.010;

18 (2) on or after January 1, 2009, shall report electronic or messaging addresses
19 or Internet communication identifiers, and changes to addresses and identifiers, to the
20 Department of Public Safety as required by AS 12.63.010.

21 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2009.

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol, Rm. 125
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2995
Fax: (907) 465-6592



Interim:
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 430
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 269-0250
Fax: (907) 269-0249

Senator Lesil McGuire
Chair, Senate State Committee

Fax

To: Leg Legal **From:** Shalon Szymanski, SSTA Committee Aide

Fax: 2029 **Pages:**

Phone: **Date:** February 19, 2008

Re: Final CS Request **CC:**

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

● **Comments:**

SB 185 DID MOVE OUT OF SENATE STATE AFFAIRS TODAY.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Lesil McGuire, Chair
Sen. Gary Stevens, Vice-Chair
Sen. Lyda Green
Sen. Hollis French
Sen. Con Bunde



State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2995
Fax (907) 465-6592

SENATOR LESIL McGUIRE
CHAIR, STATE AFFAIRS

Memorandum

To: Jerry, Leg. Legal

From: Shalon Szymanski, Committee Aide
Senate State Affairs Committee

Date: February 19, 2008

Re: Final CS Request

Please create a Final Committee Substitute (STA) for work order # 25-LS0985\M, mirroring # 25- LS0985\M.

SB 185 did move out of committee today.

Thank you!

AMENDMENT # 1
(withdrawn)

OFFERED IN THE SENATE STATE
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TO: SB 185

BY SEN. MCGUIRE

1 Page 3, following line 11:

2 Insert new bill sections to read:

3 **** Sec. 4. AS 18.65.087(b) is amended to read:**

4 (b) Information about a sex offender or child kidnapper that is contained in the central
5 registry, including sets of fingerprints and a sex offender's or child kidnapper's electronic
6 mail address, instant messaging address, and other Internet communication identifier, is
7 confidential and not subject to public disclosure except as to the sex offender's or child
8 kidnapper's name, aliases, residence address, photograph, physical description, description of
9 motor vehicles, license numbers of motor vehicles, and vehicle identification numbers of motor
10 vehicles, [PLACE OF] employment address, date of birth, crime for which convicted, date of
11 conviction, place and court of conviction, length and conditions of sentence, and a statement as
12 to whether the offender or kidnapper is in compliance with requirements of AS 12.63 or cannot
13 be located.

14 *** Sec. 5. AS 18.65.087(d) is amended to read:**

15 (d) The Department of Public Safety

16 (1) shall adopt regulations to

17 (A) allow a sex offender or child kidnapper to review sex offender
18 or child kidnapper registration information that refers to that sex offender or child
19 kidnapper, and if the sex offender or child kidnapper believes the information is
20 inaccurate or incomplete, to request the department to correct the information; if
21 the department finds the information is inaccurate or incomplete, the department

1 shall correct or supplement the information;

2 (B) ensure the appropriate access [CIRCULATION] to law
3 enforcement agencies of information contained in the central registry, including a
4 sex offender's or child kidnapper's electronic mail address, instant messaging
5 address, and other Internet communication identifier;

6 (C) ensure the anonymity of members of the public who request
7 information under this section;

8 (2) shall provide to the Department of Corrections and municipal police
9 departments the forms and directions necessary to allow sex offenders and child
10 kidnappers to comply with AS 12.63.010;

11 (3) may adopt regulations to establish fees to be charged for registration
12 under AS 12.63.010 and for information requests; the fee for registration shall be based
13 upon the actual costs of performing the registration and maintaining the central registry
14 but may not be set at a level whereby registration is discouraged; the fee for an
15 information request may not be greater than \$10;

16 (4) shall remove from the central registry of sex offenders and child
17 kidnappers under this section information about a sex offender or child kidnapper
18 required to register under AS 12.63.020(a)(2) at the end of the sex offender's or child
19 kidnapper's duty to register if the offender or kidnapper has not been convicted of another
20 sex offense or child kidnapping and the offender or kidnapper has supplied proof of
21 unconditional discharge acceptable to the department; in this paragraph, "sex offense"
22 and "child kidnapping" have the meanings given in AS 12.63.100."
23

24 Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE STATE
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TO: SB 185

BY Sen. McGuire

1 Page 1, lines 3 - 10:
2

3 Delete all material and insert:
4

5 **"* Section 1. AS 11.56.840(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:**

6 (a) A person commits the crime of failure to register as a sex offender or child
7 kidnapper in the second degree if the person fails, as required by AS 12.63.010, to

8 (1) register;

9 (2) file written notice of

10 (A) change of residence address;

11 (B) change of mailing address;

12 (C) establishment of an electronic or messaging address or any
13 change to an electronic or messaging address; or

14 (D) establishment of Internet communication identifier or any
15 change to an Internet communication identifier;

16 (3) file the annual or quarterly written verification; or

17 (4) supply accurate and complete information required to be submitted
18 under (1) - (3) of this subsection."

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session
State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465-6615

Interim
716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 540
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120
Fax: (907) 269-0122



Co-chair
Joint Armed Services Committee

Member
Resources Committee
Judiciary Committee
Transportation Committee

Senator Bill_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Senate Bill 185

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

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 185 will help prevent online sexual predators from preying on children or anyone else by requiring convicted sex offenders and child kidnappers to register their e-mail addresses, instant messaging addresses and any other internet communication identifiers with the Alaska Department of Public Safety. Currently sex offenders in Alaska must register their home address and place of employment with the Department's publicly searchable online database. This would be another category of information to be added to that database. Requiring sex offenders to register their online identities gives parents, kids, and law enforcement a new and effective weapon to repel internet predators.

In the future, data generated under this bill may be used by internet service providers and internet security firms to prevent children from receiving messages from convicted sex offenders or warn parents of the sender's status. In order for these services to be developed, states must take the first step and make the data available.

The internet will likely never be a completely safe place, and parents need to take an active role in making sure their children use the internet responsibly. SB 185 merely gives us a new tool we can use to help protect our selves and our families.

I encourage you to support this legislation.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary - Sib 185 (Work Order No. 25-LS0985\A)

TO: Senator Bill Wielechowski

FROM: Gerald P. Luckhaupt
Legislative Counsel *J. P. Luckhaupt*

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, please note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill - the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 amends AS 11.56.840(a) by providing that a sex offender or child kidnapper's failure to update email address and Internet identifiers violates this section.

Section 2 amends AS 12.63.010(b) by requiring a sex offender or child kidnapper when registering to provide the person's email and instant messaging addresses and Internet identifiers in addition to other information required under this subsection.

Section 3 amends AS 12.63.010(c) by requiring a sex offender or child kidnapper to notify the department of public safety whenever the person establishes or changes an email or instant messaging address or Internet identifier.

Section 4 provides an applicability section.

GPL:lmb
08-012.lmb

STATE OFFICE
ALASKA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 240106 Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0106 Phone (907) 277-0515 Fax (907) 272-5355



Business Manager

Joseph Young
Anchorage

Board of Directors

Angella Long, President
Wasilla

John Lucking, Vice President
Soldotna

Leo Brandlen, Past President
Anchorage

Kim Wannamaker, Memb
Kenai
Pres. Kenai Chapter

Dan Frerich, Member
Anchorage
Pres. Anchorage Chapter

John Jansen, Member
Mat-Su
Pres. Mat-Su Chapter

Jim Janke, Member
Fairbanks
Pres. Farthest North Chapter

Dan Boone, Member
Juneau
Pres. Capital City Chapter

Natalie White, Member
Ketchikan
Pres. First City Chapter

Matt Betzen, Member
Unalaska
Pres. Aleutian Islands Chapter

Kelly Shover, Member
Wrangell
Pres. Wrangell Chapter

Scott McCumby, Member
Valdez
Pres. Port of Valdez Chapter

January 24, 2008

Senator Bill Wielechowski
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I would like to thank you for introducing SB 185, an act relating to sex offenders and child kidnapers.

The APOA State Board's Legislative Committee recently reviewed this proposed legislation and decided to unanimously support this bill.

We thank you for addressing this issue. Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515, if there is anything our organization can do to assist in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Angella Long
State President

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 • 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

©2008 Alaska Senate Bipartisan Working Group - WEBMASTER Peter W. Stein



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."

Edition: Final

Section: News

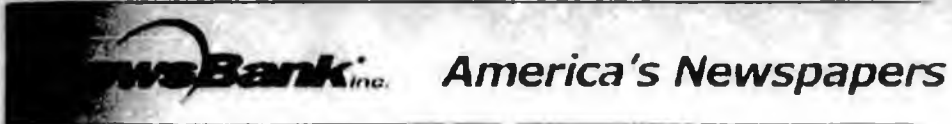
Page: A1

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

Record Number: 9705060081

Copyright (c) 1997, 2000 Seattle Post-Intelligencer (<http://seattlep-i.com>). All rights reserved.

Reproduced with the permission of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.



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

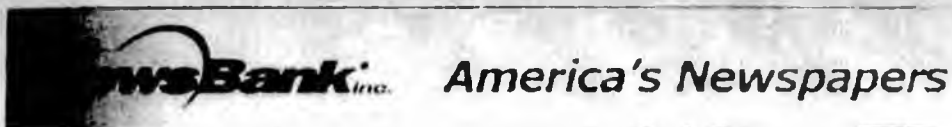
Section: Editorial/Opinion

Page: A8

Index Terms: CRIME ; CHILDREN ; TEEN ; NC ; BILL ; Internet ; Roy Cooper ; Editorial

Record Number: jiz6dp89

Copyright 2007 by The News & Observer Pub. Co.



'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

Copyright (c) 1998 Maine Sunday Telegram

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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
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
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
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
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	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 Griffin, 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: _____
 Bill Version: SB 185
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SB185-DPS-R&I-02-05-08 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 State Affairs 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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual	42.0		42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	42.0	0.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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							
TOTAL	42.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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 Schade, Director
 Division: Statewide Services
 Approved by: Walt Morgan, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Phone (907) 269-0202
 Date/Time 2/7/08 8:47 AM
 Date 2/6/2008

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. SB 185

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 (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn) and gaming (i.e. 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 \$85.00 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.

The bill is unclear as to the timeframe for current registered offenders to provide all Internet identifiers and addresses used by the offender. Therefore, the department has conservatively not included the cost associated with immediate compliance for current registered offenders in this analysis, including mailing notification of new requirements and instructions, data entry, etc. Rather, current registered offenders would be required to provide this additional information at annual or quarterly verification or upon an otherwise-required qualifying change in the offender's information.