



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT REGISTRY AMENDMENTS - TALKING POINTS

The department is proposing amendments to improve public safety in Florida by ensuring the effectiveness of the sexual offender registry. The changes include:

- Allow online registration of vehicle information and address changes in the sexual offender/predator registry. Current law requires sexual offenders and predators to report in-person to the sheriff's office within 48 hours after any change in vehicle owned. While vehicle information is incredibly important to law enforcement, the mandate to have every change to this information reported in-person to the sheriff's office has created a significant burden.

Since 2007, registrants have had the ability to electronically report and update certain supplemental registration information such as email addresses, Internet identifiers and phone numbers, through a secure online system. Allowing registrants the option to report their vehicle information and address changes online will facilitate faster access to this critical information and reduce the impact on sheriff's offices.

- Clarify registration requirement relating to the timing of reporting of international travel or a change of residence to another state by changing "*within 48 hours before the date...*" to "*at least 48 hours before the date.*" This removes any possibility of misinterpretation or argument about when the reporting is required.
- Create a mechanism of petition for relief of registration for individuals required to register based solely upon a requirement to register in another state for an offense that is *not* similar to a conviction offense requiring registration in Florida and whose registration in that other state is held confidential, not for public release, and for criminal justice purposes only.

As Florida does not have a non-public registry, such an individual's registration information would be publicly available. From an equal protection standpoint, these circumstances may be found objectionable by the courts as the current laws treat similarly situated persons convicted in Florida differently than those convicted in other states. Not correcting this issue increases the risk that a court's decision could impact the entire registry.

- None of the changes should have a fiscal impact.