



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 899***

LCO No. 3510



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:  
(AGE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR SAFETY ZONES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 54-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes,  
4 except subdivisions (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection, the registry  
5 maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
6 Protection shall be a public record and shall be accessible to the public  
7 during normal business hours. The Department of Emergency Services  
8 and Public Protection shall make registry information available to the  
9 public through the Internet. Not less than once per calendar quarter, the  
10 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall issue  
11 notices to all print and electronic media in the state regarding the  
12 availability and means of accessing the registry. Each local police  
13 department and each state police troop shall keep a record of all  
14 registration information transmitted to it by the Department of  
15 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and shall make such  
16 information accessible to the public during normal business hours.

17 (2) (A) Any state agency, the Judicial Department, any state police  
18 troop or any local police department may, at its discretion, notify any  
19 government agency, private organization or individual, including, but  
20 not limited to, representatives of senior centers or other facilities serving  
21 or housing senior citizens, of registration information when such  
22 agency, said department, such troop or such local police department, as  
23 the case may be, believes such notification is necessary to protect the  
24 public or any individual in any jurisdiction from any person who is  
25 subject to registration under section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254.

26 (B) (i) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or  
27 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's address and notifies the  
28 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such  
29 change pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the  
30 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by  
31 electronic mail, notify the superintendent of schools for the school  
32 district in which the registrant resides, or plans to reside, of such release  
33 or new address, and provide such superintendent with the same  
34 registry information for such registrant that the department makes  
35 available to the public through the Internet under subdivision (1) of this  
36 subsection.

37 (ii) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or  
38 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's address and notifies the  
39 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such  
40 change pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the  
41 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by  
42 electronic mail, notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in  
43 which the registrant resides, or plans to reside, of such release or new  
44 address, and provide such chief executive officer with the same registry  
45 information for such registrant that the department makes available to  
46 the public through the Internet under subdivision (1) of this subsection.  
47 The chief executive officer of the municipality shall provide such  
48 information to any senior center or other facility serving or housing  
49 senior citizens located in such municipality.

50 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
51 subsection, state agencies, the Judicial Department, state police troops  
52 and local police departments shall not disclose the identity of any victim  
53 of a crime committed by a registrant or treatment information provided  
54 to the registry pursuant to sections 54-102g and 54-250 to 54-258a,  
55 inclusive, except to government agencies for bona fide law enforcement  
56 or security purposes.

57 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
58 subsection, registration information the dissemination of which has  
59 been restricted by court order pursuant to section 54-255 and which is  
60 not otherwise subject to disclosure, shall not be a public record and shall  
61 be released only for law enforcement purposes until such restriction is  
62 removed by the court pursuant to said section.

63 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
64 subsection, a registrant's electronic mail address, instant message  
65 address or other similar Internet communication identifier shall not be  
66 a public record, except that the Department of Emergency Services and  
67 Public Protection may release such identifier for law enforcement or  
68 security purposes in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
69 department. The department shall adopt regulations in accordance with  
70 chapter 54 to specify the circumstances under which and the persons to  
71 whom such identifiers may be released including, but not limited to,  
72 providers of electronic communication service or remote computing  
73 service, as those terms are defined in section 54-260b, and operators of  
74 Internet web sites, and the procedure therefor.

75 (6) When any registrant completes the registrant's term of registration  
76 or is otherwise released from the obligation to register under section 54-  
77 251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the Department of Emergency Services and  
78 Public Protection shall notify any state police troop or local police  
79 department having jurisdiction over the registrant's last reported  
80 residence address that the person is no longer a registrant, and the  
81 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, state police  
82 troop and local police department shall remove the registrant's name

83 and information from the registry.

84 (b) Neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state nor any  
85 officer or employee thereof, shall be held civilly liable to any registrant  
86 by reason of disclosure of any information regarding the registrant that  
87 is released or disclosed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.  
88 The state and any political subdivision of the state and, except in cases  
89 of wanton, reckless or malicious conduct, any officer or employee  
90 thereof, shall be immune from liability for good faith conduct in  
91 carrying out the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this  
92 section.

93 Sec. 2. Section 54-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
94 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

95 (a) The Court Support Services Division, in conjunction with state-  
96 wide experts in law enforcement, the treatment of sexual offenders and  
97 sexual assault victim services, shall, within available appropriations,  
98 develop a community response education program to be offered to  
99 neighborhoods and municipalities that have been notified pursuant to  
100 section 54-258, as amended by this act, that a person who has registered  
101 under said section is or will be residing in that community.

102 (b) The purpose of such program shall be to assist neighborhoods,  
103 including senior centers and other facilities serving or housing senior  
104 citizens in such neighborhoods, parents and children to learn how to  
105 better protect themselves from sexual abuse and sexual assault. The  
106 program shall develop educational materials and community  
107 information resources on prevention and risk reduction concerning  
108 sexual abuse and sexual assault and the enforcement of requirements  
109 concerning the registration and supervision of sexual offenders and the  
110 notification of communities where such offenders reside.

111 (c) The program may include the following:

112 (1) An initial community meeting following a community  
113 notification, sponsored by the Court Support Services Division and held

114 in conjunction with the chief of police, chief elected officials, the  
115 superintendent of schools and other municipal officials of the  
116 community, to discuss the implementation of the statutory  
117 requirements concerning the registration of a sexual offender and the  
118 notification of the community where such offender resides, to provide  
119 information on the crime or crimes involved and to provide information  
120 on how the offender will be monitored by the Court Support Services  
121 Division and the specific conditions of probation applicable to the  
122 offender;

123 (2) Information on how and where concerned residents may report  
124 observed violations by an offender of the conditions of such offender's  
125 probation;

126 (3) Resources to educate families, [and] children and senior citizens  
127 in the prevention and avoidance of sexual abuse and sexual assault and  
128 for parents seeking supportive methods for discussing relevant issues  
129 with their children;

130 (4) Resources on when and how a community may wish to establish  
131 a network of "Safe Houses" for neighborhood children to use when they  
132 seek safe shelter or the creation of a neighborhood block watch or crime  
133 watch;

134 (5) Resources for police departments and boards of education to use  
135 in consulting with parents on appropriate school-based classroom  
136 programs stressing safety, prevention and risk reduction and to use in  
137 developing educational programs for parents to discuss relevant issues  
138 with their children; [and]

139 (6) Resources for police departments and municipal officials to  
140 provide programs stressing safety, prevention and risk reduction for  
141 senior citizens living in the community or receiving services at a senior  
142 center or other facility located in the community; and

143 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) Compilation and distribution of a list of child protective  
144 agencies, child guidance clinics and rape crisis centers for families

145 seeking more in-depth counseling after a community notification has  
146 occurred.

147 (d) The Court Support Services Division may apply for and receive  
148 grants from the federal government or any agency thereof or from any  
149 foundation, corporation, association or individual for purposes of the  
150 development of the community response education program under this  
151 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	54-258
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	54-261

**Statement of Purpose:**

To add senior centers and other facilities serving or housing senior citizens to those notified of sex offenders in their neighborhoods and provide education to senior citizens on how to protect themselves from the threat of sex offenders.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*