



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 899

January Session, 2021



AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR SAFETY ZONES.

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

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 Section 54-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) The Court Support Services Division, in conjunction with state-
4 wide experts in law enforcement, the treatment of sexual offenders and
5 sexual assault victim services, shall, within available appropriations,
6 develop a community response education program to be offered to
7 neighborhoods and municipalities that have been notified pursuant to
8 section 54-258 that a person who has registered under said section is or
9 will be residing in that community.

10 (b) The purpose of such program shall be to assist neighborhoods,
11 senior centers and other facilities serving or housing senior citizens in
12 such neighborhoods, parents and children to learn how to better protect
13 themselves from sexual abuse and sexual assault. The program shall
14 develop educational materials and community information resources
15 on prevention and risk reduction concerning sexual abuse and sexual
16 assault and the enforcement of requirements concerning the registration
17 and supervision of sexual offenders and the notification of communities
18 where such offenders reside.

19 (c) The program may include the following:

20 (1) An initial community meeting following a community
21 notification, sponsored by the Court Support Services Division and held
22 in conjunction with the chief of police, chief elected officials, the
23 superintendent of schools and other municipal officials of the
24 community, to discuss the implementation of the statutory
25 requirements concerning the registration of a sexual offender and the
26 notification of the community where such offender resides, to provide
27 information on the crime or crimes involved and to provide information
28 on how the offender will be monitored by the Court Support Services
29 Division and the specific conditions of probation applicable to the
30 offender;

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

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

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

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

47 (6) Resources for police departments and municipal officials to
48 provide programs stressing safety, prevention and risk reduction for
49 senior citizens living in the community or receiving services at a senior

50 center or other facility located in the community; and

51 [(6)] (7) Compilation and distribution of a list of child protective
52 agencies, child guidance clinics and rape crisis centers for families
53 seeking more in-depth counseling after a community notification has
54 occurred.

55 (d) The Court Support Services Division may apply for and receive
56 grants from the federal government or any agency thereof or from any
57 foundation, corporation, association or individual for purposes of the
58 development of the community response education program under this
59 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	54-261

AGE Joint Favorable Subst.