

CHAPTER 2018-105

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1301

An act relating to sexual offenders and predators; amending s. 775.21, F.S.; reducing the aggregate and consecutive number of days used to determine residency for purposes of sexual predator or sexual offender registration; providing for a mandatory minimum sentence of community control with electronic monitoring for certain offenses committed by sexual predators if the court does not impose a prison sentence; amending s. 943.0435, F.S.; providing for a mandatory minimum sentence of community control with electronic monitoring for certain offenses committed by sexual offenders if the court does not impose a prison sentence; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraphs (k), (n), and (o) of subsection (2) and subsection (10) of section 775.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

775.21 The Florida Sexual Predators Act.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(k) “Permanent residence” means a place where the person abides, lodges, or resides for 3 ~~5~~ or more consecutive days.

(n) “Temporary residence” means a place where the person abides, lodges, or resides, including, but not limited to, vacation, business, or personal travel destinations in or out of this state, for a period of 3 ~~5~~ or more days in the aggregate during any calendar year and which is not the person’s permanent address or, for a person whose permanent residence is not in this state, a place where the person is employed, practices a vocation, or is enrolled as a student for any period of time in this state.

(o) “Transient residence” means a county where a person lives, remains, or is located for a period of 3 ~~5~~ or more days in the aggregate during a calendar year and which is not the person’s permanent or temporary address. The term includes, but is not limited to, a place where the person sleeps or seeks shelter and a location that has no specific street address.

(10) PENALTIES.—

(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, a sexual predator who fails to register; who fails, after registration, to maintain, acquire, or renew a driver license or an identification card; who fails to provide required location information; who fails to provide electronic mail addresses, Internet identifiers, and each Internet identifier’s corresponding website homepage or application software name; who fails to provide all home telephone numbers and cellular telephone numbers, employment information, change in status at an institution of higher education, or change-of-name

information; who fails to make a required report in connection with vacating a permanent residence; who fails to reregister as required; who fails to respond to any address verification correspondence from the department within 3 weeks of the date of the correspondence; who knowingly provides false registration information by act or omission; or who otherwise fails, by act or omission, to comply with the requirements of this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(b) A sexual predator who has been convicted of or found to have committed, or has pled nolo contendere or guilty to, regardless of adjudication, any violation, or attempted violation, of s. 787.01, s. 787.02, or s. 787.025(2)(c), where the victim is a minor; s. 794.011, excluding s. 794.011(10); s. 794.05; former s. 796.03; former s. 796.035; s. 800.04; s. 827.071; s. 847.0133; s. 847.0135(5); s. 847.0145; or s. 985.701(1); or a violation of a similar law of another jurisdiction when the victim of the offense was a minor, and who works, whether for compensation or as a volunteer, at any business, school, child care facility, park, playground, or other place where children regularly congregate, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(c) For a felony violation of this section, excluding paragraph (g), committed on or after July 1, 2018, if the court does not impose a prison sentence, the court shall impose a mandatory minimum term of community control, as defined in s. 948.001, as follows:

1. For a first offense, a mandatory minimum term of 6 months with electronic monitoring.

2. For a second offense, a mandatory minimum term of 1 year with electronic monitoring.

3. For a third or subsequent offense, a mandatory minimum term of 2 years with electronic monitoring.

~~(d)~~(e) Any person who misuses public records information relating to a sexual predator, as defined in this section, or a sexual offender, as defined in s. 943.0435 or s. 944.607, to secure a payment from such a predator or offender; who knowingly distributes or publishes false information relating to such a predator or offender which the person misrepresents as being public records information; or who materially alters public records information with the intent to misrepresent the information, including documents, summaries of public records information provided by law enforcement agencies, or public records information displayed by law enforcement agencies on websites or provided through other means of communication, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

~~(e)~~(d) A sexual predator who commits any act or omission in violation of this section may be prosecuted for the act or omission in the county in which

the act or omission was committed, in the county of the last registered address of the sexual predator, in the county in which the conviction occurred for the offense or offenses that meet the criteria for designating a person as a sexual predator, in the county where the sexual predator was released from incarceration, or in the county of the intended address of the sexual predator as reported by the predator prior to his or her release from incarceration. In addition, a sexual predator may be prosecuted for any such act or omission in the county in which he or she was designated a sexual predator.

(f)(e) An arrest on charges of failure to register, the service of an information or a complaint for a violation of this section, or an arraignment on charges for a violation of this section constitutes actual notice of the duty to register when the predator has been provided and advised of his or her statutory obligation to register under subsection (6). A sexual predator's failure to immediately register as required by this section following such arrest, service, or arraignment constitutes grounds for a subsequent charge of failure to register. A sexual predator charged with the crime of failure to register who asserts, or intends to assert, a lack of notice of the duty to register as a defense to a charge of failure to register shall immediately register as required by this section. A sexual predator who is charged with a subsequent failure to register may not assert the defense of a lack of notice of the duty to register.

(f) Registration following such arrest, service, or arraignment is not a defense and does not relieve the sexual predator of criminal liability for the failure to register.

(g) Any person who has reason to believe that a sexual predator is not complying, or has not complied, with the requirements of this section and who, with the intent to assist the sexual predator in eluding a law enforcement agency that is seeking to find the sexual predator to question the sexual predator about, or to arrest the sexual predator for, his or her noncompliance with the requirements of this section:

1. Withholds information from, or does not notify, the law enforcement agency about the sexual predator's noncompliance with the requirements of this section, and, if known, the whereabouts of the sexual predator;
2. Harbors, or attempts to harbor, or assists another person in harboring or attempting to harbor, the sexual predator;
3. Conceals or attempts to conceal, or assists another person in concealing or attempting to conceal, the sexual predator; or
4. Provides information to the law enforcement agency regarding the sexual predator which the person knows to be false information,

commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. This paragraph does not apply if the sexual predator

is incarcerated in or is in the custody of a state correctional facility, a private correctional facility, a local jail, or a federal correctional facility.

Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 943.0435, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.0435 Sexual offenders required to register with the department; penalty.—

(9)(a) A sexual offender who does not comply with the requirements of this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(b) For a felony violation of this section, excluding subsection (13), committed on or after July 1, 2018, if the court does not impose a prison sentence, the court shall impose a mandatory minimum term of community control, as defined in s. 948.001, as follows:

1. For a first offense, a mandatory minimum term of 6 months with electronic monitoring.

2. For a second offense, a mandatory minimum term of 1 year with electronic monitoring.

3. For a third or subsequent offense, a mandatory minimum term of 2 years with electronic monitoring.

~~(c)~~(b) A sexual offender who commits any act or omission in violation of this section may be prosecuted for the act or omission in the county in which the act or omission was committed, in the county of the last registered address of the sexual offender, in the county in which the conviction occurred for the offense or offenses that meet the criteria for designating a person as a sexual offender, in the county where the sexual offender was released from incarceration, or in the county of the intended address of the sexual offender as reported by the offender prior to his or her release from incarceration.

~~(d)~~(e) An arrest on charges of failure to register when the offender has been provided and advised of his or her statutory obligations to register under subsection (2), the service of an information or a complaint for a violation of this section, or an arraignment on charges for a violation of this section constitutes actual notice of the duty to register. A sexual offender’s failure to immediately register as required by this section following such arrest, service, or arraignment constitutes grounds for a subsequent charge of failure to register. A sexual offender charged with the crime of failure to register who asserts, or intends to assert, a lack of notice of the duty to register as a defense to a charge of failure to register shall immediately register as required by this section. A sexual offender who is charged with a subsequent failure to register may not assert the defense of a lack of notice of the duty to register.

(d) Registration following such arrest, service, or arraignment is not a defense and does not relieve the sexual offender of criminal liability for the failure to register.

Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 23, 2018.