

HB 1386 -- Sexual Offenders

Sponsor: Dixon

This bill changes the definitions of "persistent sexual offender" and "predatory sexual offender" and increases the penalty for several felony offenses to life imprisonment without parole when committed by a predatory sexual offender. Current law allows a person sentenced as a predatory sexual offender to be paroled. The bill also defines a new term, "prior sexual offender." The bill:

- (1) Uses the current definition of "predatory sexual offender" to redefine "persistent sexual offender";
- (2) Uses the current definition of "persistent sexual offender" to define "prior sexual offender"; and
- (3) Provides a list of felony offenses, including sexual offenses, prostitution offenses, pornography offenses, and offenses against the family, for which a second conviction classifies the person as a predatory sexual offender. A third conviction for one of these offenses would then be punishable by a sentence of life imprisonment without parole.

The bill also clarifies that a plea of nolo contendere is considered the same as a plea of guilty, in terms of the enhanced penalties.