

SCS SB 73 -- SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

SPONSOR: Champion (Weter)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute allows each county sheriff to maintain a web page, available to the public, providing information about registered sexual offenders. The web page can show only an offender's name, address, photograph, and the crimes for which the offender was required to register.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the public needs to know if a sex offender lives in the neighborhood, and the Internet is the most efficient method of supplying that information. The bill clarifies that sheriffs have the authority to put the sex offender registries on the Internet. One sheriff was threatened with a lawsuit over posting photos of the offenders on the sheriff's office web site.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Champion.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst