

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 674

**SHORT TITLE:** Sex Offender Registry/Public Info.

**SPONSOR(S):** Senators Odom, Albertson, Allran, Carpenter, Carrington, Cochrane, Cooper, East, Forrester, Foxx, Garwood, Gulley, Hoyle, Jordan, Kincaid, McDaniel, Page, Perdue, Phillips, Plyler, Rand, Reeves, Rucho, Warren, Webster, Weinstein, and Winner.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Yes ( )      No (X)      No Estimate Available ( )

FY 1997-98   FY 1998-99   FY 1999-00   FY 2000-01   FY 2001-02

**REVENUES** None.

**EXPENDITURES** None.

**POSITIONS:** None.

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &**

**PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Information; County Sheriff's Departments.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law.

**BILL SUMMARY: SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY/PUBLIC INFO. TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN INFORMATION IN THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTER IS PUBLIC INFORMATION.**

Amends GS 14-208.10 to provide that the name, sex, address, physical description, picture, conviction date, offense for which registration required, sentence imposed, and registration status of a person who is required to register as sex offender is a public record. Emphasizes that identity of victim may not be released to public.<sup>1</sup>

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

<sup>1</sup> *Daily Bulletin*, Institute of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill: Vol. 1997, No. 37.

## *Department of Justice*

According to the Department of Justice, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Division of Criminal Information. Also, allowing the public to access the sex offender registration list of a particular county would not place a financial burden on county sheriffs. Each sheriff already keeps a registry of those individuals, residing in their county, that have prior convictions of sex offenses.

Under current law, the sheriff has certain guidelines in disseminating information regarding sex offenders in their county. Presently, the sheriff can only provide limited information on a sex offender registrant to an individual. Any information requested by an individual has to be initiated by first, providing the name of the proposed sex offender. The sheriff can then release information pertaining to this specific individual to the person who has made the request. Other organizations, such as church groups and Boy Scout Troops, have access to the entire registry of a particular county.

This bill would allow all individuals, as well as organizations, access to the entire registry of a particular county, upon a written request. The sheriff can charge a reasonable fee for duplicating and mailing costs associated with providing the list. The Department of Justice notes that providing a list in its entirety to the any requesting individual or organization should not place any additional burden on the workloads of the sheriffs'. Any cost incurred should be offset by the fees a sheriff will be able to collect for providing the sex offender registry list.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

### **FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

**733-4910**

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**DATE:** April 29, 1997



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