

HB 699 – Internet Identifiers (Identical SB 684)

Amends s. 775.21, F.S., changing the definition of internet identifier to “any designation, moniker, screen name, username, or other name used for self-identification to send or receive social Internet communication.” It also adds that while an internet identifier doesn’t include date of birth, social security number, personal identification number (PIN), or password, use of an internet identifier that includes these waives the disclosure exemption in that paragraph and in the newly added s. 119.071(5)(1), F.S. It also defines “social internet communication” as “any written, spoken, or visual communication between two or more persons via chat, social media, instant messenger, social networking, social gaming, voice-over-Internet-protocol programs, or online file-sharing services. The term does not include passive browsing, reading, or viewing of the Internet; communication used for public utility, banking, retail, or medical purposes; or exclusively commercial transactions.” It also adds the requirement to submit “each Internet identifier’s corresponding website homepage or application software name.”

Furthermore, the bill adds that any “change that occurs after the sexual predator registers in person at the sheriff's office... in any of the following information related to the sexual predator must be reported,” adding “each Internet identifier's corresponding website homepage or application software name” to the current list. It also adds that a sexual predator shall register “each Internet identifier's corresponding website homepage or application software name” on the department’s online system or in person at the sheriff’s office “within 48 hours after” using such email addresses and Internet identifiers.” Currently he or she must before usage. The Internet identifier website homepage/application software name is also added to other current language where Internet identifiers are referred to for offender reporting. This bill makes the same changes to the sexual offender reporting language.

The Internet identifier website homepage/application software name additions are also made in the Level 7, 3rd degree felony for a sexual predator failing to register, failing to renew driver’s license or identification card, or committing other registration violations (s. 775.21(10)(a), F.S.), as well as the Level 7, 3rd degree felony for a sexual offender failing to report and reregister, failing to respond to address verification, and providing false registration information (s. 943.0435(14), F.S.).

Per DOC, in FY 15-16, there were 1,001 (adj.) offenders sentenced for registration/false information offenses related to sexual offenders and sexual predators, with 503 (adj.) of these offenders sentenced to prison (mean sentence length=40.2 m, incarceration rate: 60.5% adj.-60.4% unadj.). It is unknown how many additional offenders might be added due to changes made in this bill.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Indeterminate

Requested by: House