



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 509**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING ADDRESS VERIFICATION REFORMS FOR REGISTRANTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (11) of section 54-250 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (11) "Sexually violent offense" means (A) a violation of section 53a-  
5 70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019,  
6 or section 53a-70, except subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of said section,  
7 53a-70a, 53a-71, except subdivision (1), (4), (8) or (10) or subparagraph  
8 (B) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of said section or subparagraph  
9 (A) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of said section if the court makes  
10 a finding that, at the time of the offense, the victim was under eighteen  
11 years of age, 53a-72a, except subdivision [(2)] (3) of subsection (a) of said  
12 section, or 53a-72b, or of section 53a-92 or 53a-92a, provided the court  
13 makes a finding that the offense was committed with intent to sexually  
14 violate or abuse the victim, (B) a violation of any of the offenses specified  
15 in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision for which a person is criminally  
16 liable under section 53a-8, 53a-48 or 53a-49, or (C) a violation of any  
17 predecessor statute to any of the offenses specified in subparagraph (A)  
18 or (B) of this subdivision the essential elements of which are  
19 substantially the same as said offense.

20 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 54-251 of the general statutes is  
21 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
22 *1, 2026*):

23 (e) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
24 section shall be guilty of a class [D felony] C misdemeanor, except that,  
25 if such person violates the provisions of this section by failing to notify  
26 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without  
27 undue delay of a change of name, address or status or another  
28 reportable event, such person shall only be subject to such penalty if  
29 such failure continues for five business days.

30 (2) Any person who does not receive by mail an address verification  
31 form described in subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this  
32 act, may request that the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
33 Protection mail such form to such person. The department shall mail  
34 such form to such person not later than five business days after  
35 receiving such request.

36 (3) The court shall enter a nolle prosequi to the charges against the  
37 person for a violation of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section  
38 if such person (A) has no prior conviction for a violation of said  
39 subsection (a), and (B) is in compliance with the provisions of said  
40 subsection (a) not later than twenty business days following the  
41 arraignment of such person on such charges.

42 (4) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of subsection (a) of  
43 this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that (A) uncontrollable  
44 circumstances prevented the person from complying with the  
45 provisions of said subsection (a), (B) the person did not contribute to the  
46 creation of such circumstances in reckless disregard to the requirements  
47 pursuant to said subsection (a), and (C) such person was in compliance  
48 with the provisions of said subsection (a) as soon as such circumstances  
49 ceased to exist.

50 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 54-252 of the general statutes is  
51 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

52 1, 2026):

53 (d) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be  
54 guilty of a class [D felony] C misdemeanor, except that, if such person  
55 violates the provisions of this section by failing to notify the  
56 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without  
57 undue delay of a change of name, address or status or another  
58 reportable event, such person shall only be subject to such penalty if  
59 such failure continues for five business days.

60 (2) Any person who does not receive by mail an address verification  
61 form described in subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this  
62 act, may request that the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
63 Protection mail such form to such person. The department shall mail  
64 such form to such person not later than five business days after  
65 receiving such request.

66 (3) The court shall enter a nolle prosequi to the charges against the  
67 person for a violation of the provisions of this section if such person (A)  
68 has no prior conviction for a violation of this section, and (B) is in  
69 compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty  
70 business days following the arraignment of such person on such  
71 charges.

72 (4) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of this section, it  
73 shall be an affirmative defense that (A) uncontrollable circumstances  
74 prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this  
75 section, (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such  
76 circumstances in reckless disregard to the requirements pursuant to this  
77 section, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of  
78 this section as soon as such circumstances ceased to exist.

79 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 54-253 of the general statutes is  
80 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
81 *1, 2026*):

82 (e) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be

83 guilty of a class [D felony] C misdemeanor, except that, if such person  
84 violates the provisions of this section by failing to register with the  
85 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without  
86 undue delay or notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and  
87 Public Protection without undue delay of a change of name, address or  
88 status or another reportable event, such person shall only be subject to  
89 such penalty if such failure continues for five business days.

90 (2) Any person who does not receive by mail an address verification  
91 form described in subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this  
92 act, may request that the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
93 Protection mail such form to such person. The department shall mail  
94 such form to such person not later than five business days after  
95 receiving such request.

96 (3) The court shall enter a nolle prosequi to the charges against the  
97 person for a violation of the provisions of this section if such person (A)  
98 has no prior conviction for a violation of this section, and (B) is in  
99 compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty  
100 business days following the arraignment of such person on such  
101 charges.

102 (4) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of this section, it  
103 shall be an affirmative defense that (A) uncontrollable circumstances  
104 prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this  
105 section, (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such  
106 circumstances in reckless disregard to the requirements pursuant to this  
107 section, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of  
108 this section as soon as such circumstances ceased to exist.

109 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 54-254 of the general statutes is  
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
111 *1, 2026*):

112 (b) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be  
113 guilty of a class [D felony] C misdemeanor, except that, if such person  
114 violates the provisions of this section by failing to notify the

115 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection without  
116 undue delay of a change of name, address or status or another  
117 reportable event, such person shall only be subject to such penalty if  
118 such failure continues for five business days.

119 (2) Any person who does not receive by mail an address verification  
120 form described in subsection (c) of section 54-257, as amended by this  
121 act, may request that the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
122 Protection mail such form to such person. The department shall mail  
123 such form to such person not later than five business days after  
124 receiving such request.

125 (3) The court shall enter a nolle prosequi to the charges against the  
126 person for a violation of the provisions of this section if such person (A)  
127 has no prior conviction for a violation of this section, and (B) is in  
128 compliance with the provisions of this section not later than twenty  
129 business days following the arraignment of such person on such  
130 charges.

131 (4) In any prosecution of a person for a violation of this section, it  
132 shall be an affirmative defense that (A) uncontrollable circumstances  
133 prevented the person from complying with the provisions of this  
134 section, (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such  
135 circumstances in reckless disregard to the requirements pursuant to this  
136 section, and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of  
137 this section as soon as such circumstances ceased to exist.

138 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 54-257 of the general statutes is  
139 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
140 *1, 2026*):

141 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the  
142 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall verify  
143 the residence address of each registrant by mailing a nonforwardable  
144 address verification form to the registrant at the registrant's last  
145 reported residence address. Such form shall require the registrant to  
146 sign a statement that the registrant continues to reside at the registrant's

147 last reported residence address and return the form by mail, facsimile  
148 or electronic mail by a date which is [ten] thirty days after the date [such]  
149 of the postmark on the form that was mailed to the registrant. The form  
150 shall contain (1) a statement that failure to return the form or providing  
151 false information is a violation of section 54-251, as amended by this act,  
152 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254,  
153 as amended by this act, as the case may be, and (2) a statement in bold  
154 text explaining that such form can be returned by mail, facsimile or  
155 electronic mail and provide the mailing address, facsimile number and  
156 electronic mail address for return of such form. In the case of a registrant  
157 who resides at a residence address for which there is no residential mail  
158 delivery, the local police department or the state police troop having  
159 jurisdiction where the registrant resides shall verify in person such  
160 registrant's residence address. Each person required to register under  
161 section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act,  
162 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, shall  
163 have such person's residence address verified in such manner every  
164 ninety days after such person's initial registration date. In the event that  
165 a registrant fails to return the residence address verification form, the  
166 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall notify  
167 the local police department or the state police troop having jurisdiction  
168 over the registrant's last reported residence address, and that agency  
169 shall apply for a warrant to be issued for the registrant's arrest under  
170 section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act,  
171 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, as the  
172 case may be. The Department of Emergency Services and Public  
173 Protection shall not notify the local police department or the state police  
174 troop, as the case may be, of any registrant's failure to register until at  
175 least thirty days have elapsed from the date of the postmark on the form  
176 that was mailed to such registrant. The Department of Emergency  
177 Services and Public Protection shall not verify the address of registrants  
178 whose last reported residence address was outside this state.

179 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 54-258 of the general statutes is  
180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

181 1, 2026):

182 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes,  
183 except subdivisions (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection, the registry  
184 maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
185 Protection shall be a public record and shall be accessible to the public  
186 during normal business hours. The Department of Emergency Services  
187 and Public Protection shall make registry information available to the  
188 public through the Internet. Not less than once per calendar quarter, the  
189 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall issue  
190 notices to all print and electronic media in the state regarding the  
191 availability and means of accessing the registry. Each local police  
192 department and each state police troop shall keep a record of all  
193 registration information transmitted to it by the Department of  
194 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and shall make such  
195 information accessible to the public during normal business hours.

196 (2) (A) Any state agency, the Judicial Department, any state police  
197 troop or any local police department may, at its discretion, notify any  
198 government agency, private organization or individual of registration  
199 information when such agency, said department, such troop or such  
200 local police department, as the case may be, believes such notification is  
201 necessary to protect the public or any individual in any jurisdiction from  
202 any person who is subject to registration under section 54-251, as  
203 amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended  
204 by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act.

205 (B) (i) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or  
206 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's residence address and  
207 notifies the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of  
208 such change pursuant to section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252,  
209 as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as  
210 amended by this act, the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
211 Protection shall, by electronic mail, notify the superintendent of schools  
212 for the school district in which the registrant resides, or plans to reside,  
213 of such release or new residence address, and provide such

214 superintendent with the same registry information for such registrant  
215 that the department makes available to the public through the Internet  
216 under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

217 (ii) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or  
218 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's residence address and  
219 notifies the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of  
220 such change pursuant to section 54-251, as amended by this act, 54-252,  
221 as amended by this act, 54-253, as amended by this act, or 54-254, as  
222 amended by this act, the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
223 Protection shall, by electronic mail, notify the chief executive officer of  
224 the municipality in which the registrant resides, or plans to reside, of  
225 such release or new residence address, and provide such chief executive  
226 officer with the same registry information for such registrant that the  
227 department makes available to the public through the Internet under  
228 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

229 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
230 subsection, state agencies, the Judicial Department, state police troops  
231 and local police departments shall not disclose the identity of any victim  
232 of a crime committed by a registrant or treatment information provided  
233 to the registry pursuant to sections 54-102g and 54-250 to 54-258a,  
234 inclusive, as amended by this act, except to government agencies for  
235 bona fide law enforcement or security purposes.

236 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
237 subsection, registration information the dissemination of which has  
238 been restricted by court order pursuant to section 54-255 and which is  
239 not otherwise subject to disclosure, shall not be a public record and shall  
240 be released only for law enforcement purposes until such restriction is  
241 removed by the court pursuant to said section.

242 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
243 subsection, a registrant's electronic mail address, instant message  
244 address or other similar Internet communication identifier shall not be  
245 a public record, except that the Department of Emergency Services and

246 Public Protection may release such identifier for law enforcement or  
247 security purposes in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
248 department. The department shall adopt regulations in accordance with  
249 chapter 54 to specify the circumstances under which and the persons to  
250 whom such identifiers may be released including, but not limited to,  
251 providers of electronic communication service or remote computing  
252 service, as those terms are defined in section 54-260b, and operators of  
253 Internet web sites, and the procedure therefor.

254 (6) When any registrant completes the registrant's term of registration  
255 or is otherwise released from the obligation to register under section 54-  
256 251, as amended by this act, 54-252, as amended by this act, 54-253, as  
257 amended by this act, or 54-254, as amended by this act, the Department  
258 of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, not later than five  
259 business days after the registrant is released from such obligation, notify  
260 any state police troop or local police department having jurisdiction  
261 over the registrant's last reported residence address that the person is  
262 no longer a registrant, and the Department of Emergency Services and  
263 Public Protection, state police troop and local police department shall,  
264 not later than five business days after the registrant is released from  
265 such obligation, remove the registrant's name and information from the  
266 registry.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	54-250(11)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	54-251(e)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	54-252(d)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2026	54-253(e)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2026	54-254(b)
Sec. 6	October 1, 2026	54-257(c)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2026	54-258(a)

**JUD** Joint Favorable Subst.