

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY REVISIONS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

House Sponsor: Craig Hall

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill makes changes to the process and requirements for individuals who petition for removal from the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires that the Department of Corrections automatically remove individuals from the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry who qualify;
- ▶ provides that the department shall notify an individual who is removed that the individual has been removed;
- ▶ allows for an individual who has not been automatically removed from the registry by the Department of Corrections but believes their offense is no longer registrable to request removal;
- ▶ removes the authority of the Department of Corrections to charge a fee to process a request for removal;
- ▶ removes the requirement that registrants must comply with all registration requirements in order to be eligible for removal through petition; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:



28 None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

31 **77-41-112**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 382

32 **77-41-113**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 237



34 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. Section **77-41-112** is amended to read:

36 **77-41-112. Removal from registry -- Requirements -- Procedure.**

37 (1) An offender who is required to register with the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry
38 may petition the court for an order removing the offender from the Sex and Kidnap Offender
39 Registry if:

40 (a) (i) the offender [~~is~~] was convicted of an offense described in Subsection (2);

41 (ii) at least five years have passed after the day on which the offender's sentence for the
42 offense [~~terminates~~] terminated;

43 (iii) the offense is the only offense for which the offender [~~is~~] was required to register;

44 (iv) the offender [~~is~~] has not been convicted of another offense, excluding a traffic
45 offense, [~~after~~] since the day on which the offender [~~is~~] was convicted of the offense for which
46 the offender is required to register, as evidenced by a certificate of eligibility issued by the
47 bureau;

48 (v) the offender successfully [~~completes~~] completed all treatment ordered by the court
49 or the Board of Pardons and Parole relating to the offense; and

50 (vi) the offender [~~pays~~] has paid all restitution ordered by the court or the Board of
51 Pardons and Parole relating to the offense; [~~and~~] or

52 [~~(vii) the offender complies with all registration requirements required under this~~
53 ~~chapter at all times; or~~]

54 (b) (i) if the offender is required to register in accordance with Subsection

55 **77-41-105(3)(a)**;

56 (ii) at least 10 years have passed after the later of:

57 (A) the day on which the offender [~~is~~] was placed on probation;

58 (B) the day on which the offender [~~is~~] was released from incarceration to parole;

- 59 (C) the day on which the offender's sentence [is] was terminated without parole;
- 60 (D) the day on which the offender [~~enters~~] entered a community-based residential
61 program; or
- 62 (E) for a minor, as defined in Section 78A-6-105, the day on which the division's
63 custody of the offender [is] was terminated;
- 64 (iii) the offender [is] has not been convicted of another offense that is a class A
65 misdemeanor, felony, or capital felony within the most recent 10-year period after the date
66 described in Subsection (1)(b)(ii), as evidenced by a certificate of eligibility issued by the
67 bureau;
- 68 (iv) the offender successfully [~~completes~~] completed all treatment ordered by the court
69 or the Board of Pardons and Parole relating to the offense; and
- 70 (v) the offender [~~pays~~] has paid all restitution ordered by the court or the Board of
71 Pardons and Parole relating to the offense[~~; and~~].
- 72 [~~(vi) the offender complies with all registration requirements required under this
73 chapter at all times.~~]
- 74 (2) The offenses referred to in Subsection (1)(a)(i) are:
- 75 (a) Section 76-4-401, enticing a minor, if the offense is a class A misdemeanor;
- 76 (b) Section 76-5-301, kidnapping;
- 77 (c) Section 76-5-304, unlawful detention, if the conviction of violating Section
78 76-5-304 is the only conviction for which the offender is required to register;
- 79 (d) Section 76-5-401, unlawful sexual activity with a minor if, at the time of the
80 offense, the offender is not more than 10 years older than the victim;
- 81 (e) Section 76-5-401.1, sexual abuse of a minor, if, at the time of the offense, the
82 offender is not more than 10 years older than the victim;
- 83 (f) Section 76-5-401.2, unlawful sexual conduct with a 16 or 17 year old, and at the
84 time of the offense, the offender is not more than 15 years older than the victim; or
- 85 (g) Section 76-9-702.7, voyeurism, if the offense is a class A misdemeanor.
- 86 (3) (a) (i) An offender seeking removal from the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry
87 under this section shall apply for a certificate of eligibility from the bureau.
- 88 (ii) An offender who intentionally or knowingly provides false or misleading
89 information to the bureau when applying for a certificate of eligibility is guilty of a class B

90 misdemeanor and subject to prosecution under Section [76-8-504.6](#).

91 (iii) Regardless of whether the offender is prosecuted, the bureau may deny a certificate
92 of eligibility to an offender who provides false information on an application.

93 (b) (i) The bureau shall perform a check of records of governmental agencies,
94 including national criminal databases, to determine whether an offender is eligible to receive a
95 certificate of eligibility.

96 (ii) If the offender meets the requirements described in Subsection (1)(a) or (b), the
97 bureau shall issue a certificate of eligibility to the offender, which is valid for a period of 90
98 days after the day on which the bureau issues the certificate.

99 (iii) The bureau shall request information from the department regarding whether the
100 offender meets the requirements.

101 (iv) Upon request from the bureau under Subsection (3)(b)(iii), the department shall
102 issue a document that states whether the offender meets the requirements described in
103 Subsection (1)(a) or (b), which may be used by the bureau to determine if a certificate of
104 eligibility is appropriate.

105 (v) The bureau shall provide a copy of the document provided to the bureau under
106 Subsection (3)(b)(iv) to the offender upon issuance of a certificate of eligibility.

107 (4) (a) (i) The bureau shall charge application and issuance fees for a certificate of
108 eligibility in accordance with the process in Section [63J-1-504](#).

109 (ii) The application fee shall be paid at the time the offender submits an application for
110 a certificate of eligibility to the bureau.

111 (iii) If the bureau determines that the issuance of a certificate of eligibility is
112 appropriate, the offender will be charged an additional fee for the issuance of a certificate of
113 eligibility.

114 (b) Funds generated under this Subsection (4) shall be deposited into the General Fund
115 as a dedicated credit by the department to cover the costs incurred in determining eligibility.

116 (5) (a) The offender shall file the petition, including original information, the court
117 docket, the certificate of eligibility from the bureau, and the document from the department
118 described in Subsection (3)(b)(iv) with the court, and deliver a copy of the petition to the office
119 of the prosecutor.

120 (b) Upon receipt of a petition for removal from the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry,

121 the office of the prosecutor shall provide notice of the petition by first-class mail to the victim
122 at the most recent address of record on file or, if the victim is still a minor under 18 years of
123 age, to the parent or guardian of the victim.

124 (c) The notice described in Subsection (5)(b) shall include a copy of the petition, state
125 that the victim has a right to object to the removal of the offender from the registry, and
126 provide instructions for registering an objection with the court.

127 (d) The office of the prosecutor shall provide the following, if available, to the court
128 within 30 days after the day on which the office receives the petition:

129 (i) presentencing report;

130 (ii) an evaluation done as part of sentencing; and

131 (iii) any other information the office of the prosecutor feels the court should consider.

132 (e) The victim, or the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor under 18 years
133 of age, may respond to the petition by filing a recommendation or objection with the court
134 within 45 days after the day on which the petition is mailed to the victim.

135 (6) (a) The court shall:

136 (i) review the petition and all documents submitted with the petition; and

137 (ii) hold a hearing if requested by the prosecutor or the victim.

138 (b) The court may grant the petition and order removal of the offender from the registry
139 if the court determines that the offender has met the requirements described in Subsection
140 (1)(a) or (b) and removal is not contrary to the interests of the public.

141 (c) If the court grants the petition, the court shall forward a copy of the order directing
142 removal of the offender from the registry to the department and the office of the prosecutor.

143 (d) If the court denies the petition, the offender may not submit another petition for
144 three years.

145 (7) The court shall notify the victim and the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry office
146 in the department of the court's decision within three days after the day on which the court
147 issues the court's decision in the same manner described in Subsection (5).

148 Section 2. Section **77-41-113** is amended to read:

149 **77-41-113. Removal for offenses for which registration is no longer required.**

150 (1) An individual who is currently on the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry because of
151 a conviction for any of the following offenses [~~may contact the department and request~~

152 ~~removal]~~ shall be automatically removed from the registry by the department if the only offense
153 or offenses for which the individual is on the registry is listed in Subsection (2).

154 (2) This section applies to a conviction for the following offenses:

155 (a) a class B or class C misdemeanor for enticing a minor, Section 76-4-401;

156 (b) kidnapping, based upon Subsection 76-5-301(1)(a) or (b);

157 (c) child kidnapping, Section 76-5-301.1, if the offender was the natural parent of the
158 child victim;

159 (d) unlawful detention, Section 76-5-304;

160 (e) a third degree felony for unlawful sexual intercourse before 1986, or a class B
161 misdemeanor for unlawful sexual intercourse, Section 76-5-401; or

162 (f) sodomy, but not forcible sodomy, Section 76-5-403.

163 (3) The department shall notify any individual who has been removed from the registry
164 in accordance with Subsection (1). The notice shall include a statement that the individual is no
165 longer required to register as a sex offender.

166 (4) An individual who is currently on the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry may
167 submit a request to the department to be removed from the registry.

168 [~~3~~] (5) The department, upon receipt of a request for removal from the registry shall:

169 (a) check the registry for the individual's current status;

170 (b) determine whether the individual qualifies for removal based upon this section; and

171 (c) notify the individual in writing of the department's determination and whether the
172 individual:

173 (i) qualifies for removal from the registry; or

174 (ii) does not qualify for removal.

175 [~~4~~] (6) If the department determines that the individual qualifies for removal from the
176 registry, the department shall remove the offender from the registry.

177 [~~5~~] (7) If the department determines that the individual does not qualify for removal
178 from the registry, the department shall provide an explanation in writing for the department's
179 determination. The department's determination is final and not subject to administrative review.

180 [~~6~~] (8) Neither the department nor any employee may be civilly liable for a
181 determination made in good faith in accordance with this section.

182 [~~7~~] (9) The department shall provide a response to a request for removal within 30

183 days of receipt of the request [~~and payment of the fee~~]. If the response cannot be provided
184 within 30 days, the department shall notify the individual that the response may be delayed up
185 to 30 additional days.

186 [~~(8) The department may charge a fee, not to exceed \$25, for a request for removal.~~]