

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1577**

By Mr. Linsky of Natick, petition of David Paul Linsky and others relative to name changes by persons registered as sex offenders. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PETITION OF:

David Paul Linsky	Michael E. Festa
Pamela P. Resor	John D. Keenan
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Scott P. Brown
Bruce E. Tarr	Gale D. Candaras
James E. Vallee	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Anthony J. Verga	James E. Timilty
Michael F. Rush	Susan C. Fargo
Matthew C. Patrick	James B. Eldridge
Brian A. Joyce	Gloria L. Fox
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	Geraldo Alicea
J. James Marzilli, Jr.	Karen E. Spilka
Stephen M. Brewer	Richard J. Ross
Christine E. Canavan	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT REGULATING SEX OFFENDER NAME CHANGES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
2 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 178E the following section:—  
4 Section 178E ½ (a) A sex offender who is required to register  
5 pursuant to sections 178C to 178P, inclusive, and has registered with  
6 the board, shall notify the board within 7 days after a change of  
7 name. A sex offender who knowingly violates this provision shall  
8 be punished by imprisonment for not more than 1 year in the house  
9 of correction or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more  
10 than 5 years, or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both such  
11 fine and imprisonment. A violation of this subsection may be prose-  
12 cuted in the Superior Court in the county or the District Court in the  
13 judicial district: wherein the sex offender currently resides, works or

14 attends an institution of higher learning or other educational institu-  
15 tion in the commonwealth, or wherein the sex offender is currently  
16 registered to work, reside or attend an institution of higher learning  
17 or other educational institution in the commonwealth, based on the  
18 sex offender's latest registration data.

19 (b) The board, upon receipt of the sex offender's name change  
20 notification, shall promptly transmit notice of the sex offender's  
21 name registration change to: the police departments in the munici-  
22 palities in the commonwealth wherein the sex offender is currently  
23 registered to reside, work or attend an institution of higher learning  
24 or other educational institution; the police departments in the munic-  
25 ipalities in the commonwealth wherein the sex offender, as currently  
26 registered with the board, intends to reside, work, or plans to attend  
27 an institution of higher learning; and the police departments in the  
28 municipalities in the commonwealth wherein a sex offense was com-  
29 mitted and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

30 (c) Except as required under subsection (b), the board may make  
31 notification of a sex offender's name change to governmental depart-  
32 ments, agencies, institutions and municipal police departments or the  
33 public, as authorized under Chapter 6, Section 178K to receive regis-  
34 tration information. A municipal police department notified by the  
35 board of a sex offender's name change pursuant to subsection (b),  
36 may make notification of such name change to individuals, organiza-  
37 tions, governmental departments, agencies and institutions and  
38 municipal police departments or the public, as authorized under  
39 Chapter 6, Section 178K to receive registration information.

1 SECTION 2. Section 178E of Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as  
2 amended by sections 6-9 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2003, is  
3 hereby amended as follows:—

4 (1) Subsection (a) is amended by inserting, after the words  
5 "intended change of address within the commonwealth or another  
6 state", the words: "and to give notice of change of name";

7 (2) Subsection (b) is amended by inserting, after the words  
8 "intended change of address within the commonwealth or another  
9 state", the words: "and to give notice of change of name";

10 (3) Subsection (c) is amended by inserting, after the words  
11 "intended change of address within the commonwealth or another  
12 state", the words: "and to give notice of change of name".