

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 182

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC SFTY/CORRECT DEPT. Prohibits any offender sentenced to the legal custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish an account on any Internet-based social networking website. (8/15/11)

1 AN ACT  
2 To enact R.S. 15:833.3, relative to the duties of the Department of Public Safety and  
3 Corrections; to prohibit any inmate incarcerated in a correctional institution operated  
4 by the department to establish an account on any Internet-based social networking  
5 website; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:833.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§833.3. Establishment of accounts on Internet-based social networking**  
9 **websites by or for inmates**

10 **A. It shall be unlawful for any offender sentenced to the legal custody**  
11 **of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish or maintain an**  
12 **account on any Internet-based, social networking website. Such websites shall**  
13 **include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Myspace, Classmates and Twitter.**

14 **B. Whoever violates a provision of this Section shall be fined not more**  
15 **than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.**

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The original instrument was prepared by Heyward Jeffers. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle Ducharme.

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DIGEST

Thompson (SB 182)

Present law authorizes the secretary to permit visits between inmates and persons outside the institution under reasonable conditions between approved friends, relatives and other persons.

Proposed law would prohibit offenders from establishing or maintaining an account with a social networking website such as Facebook, Myspace, Classmates, and Twitter.

Proposed law provides penalties of a five hundred dollar fine or thirty days imprisonment or both for violations.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 15:833.3)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill.

1. Deletes provision that criminalizes the acts of other persons who establish a social networking website account for an offender.