

SENATE No. 954

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Donald F. Humason, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act further regulating name changes of registered sex offenders.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Donald F. Humason, Jr.

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Hampden and Hampshire

SENATE No. 954

By Mr. Humason, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 954) of Donald F. Humason, Jr. for legislation to further regulate name changes of registered sex offenders. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 872 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act further regulating name changes of registered sex offenders.

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. Section 178E of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words "commonwealth or in another
3 state", in lines 24, 66 and 92, the following words, in each instance:-

4 and to give notice of change of name,

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after said
6 section 178E the following section:-

7 Section 178E

8 (a) A sex offender who is required to register pursuant to sections 178C to 178P,
9 inclusive, shall notify the board within 7 days after a change of name. A sex offender who

10 knowingly violates this provision shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 2 1/2
11 years in the house of correction or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. A violation of this
12 subsection may be prosecuted in the district court in the judicial district where the sex offender
13 currently resides, works or attends an institution of higher learning or other educational
14 institution in the commonwealth, or where the sex offender is currently registered to work, reside
15 or attend an institution of higher learning or other educational institution in the commonwealth,
16 based on the sex offender's latest registration data.

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

25 (c) Except as required under subsection (b), the board shall make notification of a sex
26 offender's name change to governmental departments, agencies, institutions and municipal police
27 departments or to the public, as authorized under section 178K to receive registration
28 information. A municipal police department notified by the board of a sex offender's name
29 change pursuant to subsection (b) shall make notification of such name change to individuals,
30 organizations, governmental departments, agencies and institutions and municipal police
31 departments or the public, as authorized under section 178K to receive registration information.