



SENATOR  
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LEGISLATIVE FACTSHEET

## Senate Bill 695 – Sex Offender Registry Reform: Tiered Registration

### **Summary:**

SB 695 establishes a tiered registry for all sex offenders. Proposed tiers are based on seriousness of crime, risk of sexual reoffending, and criminal history.

### **Existing Law:**

Currently, all sex offenders must register for life under the Sex Offender Registration Act, regardless of the seriousness of the offense. As a result, California has over 100,000 registrants and that number is growing.

### **Problem:**

California is one of four states (Alabama, Florida, South Carolina) with a lifetime sex offender registration requirement for all registered offenders. We need a new registration system that focuses attention and resources on high risk and violent sex offenders. Law enforcement cannot protect the community effectively when they are in the office doing monthly or annual paperwork for low risk offenders. Instead, they should be active in the community monitoring high risk offenders.

The stated purposes of sex offender registration are to deter offenders from committing future crimes, provide law enforcement with an additional investigative tool, and increase public protection. However, having a sex offender registry has not effectively deterred people from committing future crimes. Furthermore, the public is overwhelmed by the number of offenders displayed online in each neighborhood and may not know which offenders are serious dangers. We need a system that helps law enforcement solve new sex crimes quickly.

### **Solution:**

To improve public safety, SB 695 establishes a tiered registry system for all sex offenders:

- Tier 1: Registration for 10 years for misdemeanor or non-violent felonies;
- Tier 2: Registration for 20 years for serious or violent sex offenses; and

- Tier 3: Registration for life for high risk offenders including but not limited to sexually violent predators, repeat violent offenders, and sex offenses requiring a life term.

Offenders in Tiers 1 and 2 must petition the court for removal from the registry at the end of their designated registration period, it is not an automatic removal. The courts have the ability to deny termination in certain circumstances and the District Attorney may request a hearing to oppose any petition for removal. The local registering law enforcement agency must be informed of petitions for removal. Local law enforcement can still notify the community about an offender in any tier in appropriate circumstances.

Individuals who were granted exclusion for offenses that no longer qualify for exclusion shall receive 30 days' notice from the Department of Justice before being re-posted on the public Megan's Law website.

Registering offenders in tiers that are based on the person's individual record and risk of re-offending will allow law enforcement to concentrate their efforts on making sure high-risk and violent offenders comply with the law.

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### **Sponsors:**

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
California Sex Offender Management Board  
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Equality California

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