

Existing law requires sex offenders and child predators to provide personal information to local law enforcement agencies, including e-mail addresses, online screen names, or other online identifiers used by the offender to communicate on the Internet. Requires the bureau to develop and maintain the State Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry in a manner which allows persons to search the registry by e-mail addresses, online screen names, or other online identifiers.

New law requires the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information to provide for the capability to allow social networking web sites to compare its database of registered users to the State Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry. Requires those entities who desire to compare its database of users to the state registry to provide certain pieces of information to the bureau, including contact information of the entity operating the social networking web site, the legal and corporate status of the entity, contact information of a natural person authorized to receive service of process for the entity, and a statement to the effect that the information obtained from the registry shall not be disclosed for any purpose other than protecting children from online predators. Further provides that entities which comply with provisions of proposed law may claim compliance as a defense to a claim for liability.

New law defines "chat room", "instant message address", "online identifier", and "social networking web site".

Effective August 15, 2008.

(Amends R.S. 15:542(C)(1)(m); Adds R.S. 15:541(23)-(26) and 542.1.5(G))