

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 or any other person to establish an account for an offender on any Internet-based social networking website. (8/15/11)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 15:833.3, relative to the duties of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections; to prohibit any inmate incarcerated in a correctional institution operated by the department to establish an account on any Internet-based social networking website; to prohibit any other person to establish such accounts for incarcerated inmates; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

A. It shall be unlawful for any offender sentenced to the legal custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to be a member, or for any other person to establish an account for an offender, of any Internet-based, social networking website. Such websites shall include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Myspace, Classmates and Twitter.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

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 inmates from establishing an account with a social networking website such as Facebook, Myspace, Classmates and Twitter.

Proposed law would also prohibit any other person from establishing a social networking website account for an offender.

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)