Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee

HB 2728

Brief Description: Requiring sex offender registration for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor-level indecent exposure when there has been a finding of sexual motivation.

Sponsors: Representatives Eddy, McDonald, Ericks, Warnick, Liias, Walsh, Schindler, Loomis, Hurst, Morrell, Kenney, Williams, Simpson, VanDeWege, O'Brien and Kelley.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires registration for persons convicted of misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor-level Indecent Exposure with sexual motivation.

Hearing Date: 1/24/08

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

I. Indecent Exposure

A person commits Indecent Exposure if he or she intentionally makes any open and obscene exposure of his or her person, or the person of another, knowing that the conduct is likely to cause reasonable affront or alarm. Indecent exposure is:

- A class C felony if the perpetrator has a prior conviction for Indecent Exposure or a sex offense;
- A gross misdemeanor on the first offense if the perpetrator exposes himself or herself to a child under the age of 14; and
- A misdemeanor in all other circumstances.

II. Sex Offender Registration

Under the Community Protection Act of 1990, a person convicted of a sex offense must register with the county sheriff of the county in which he or she resides. The offender must provide a

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variety of information upon registration including name, completer residential address, date and place of birth, place of employment, crime of conviction, date and place of conviction, aliases, Social Security number, photograph, and fingerprints.

Sex offenses that trigger an offender's duty to register include any felony committed with sexual motivation, including felony-level Indecent Exposure with sexual motivation. The determination of whether an offense is committed with sexual motivation is made by special allegation, which is filed by the prosecuting attorney. Once the special allegation has been made, the prosecutor has the burden of proving that the offense was committed with sexual motivation beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury (or to a judge if a jury is waived). The prosecutor may not withdraw the special allegation without the permission of the court.

Summary of Bill:

A person convicted of misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor-level Indecent Exposure with sexual motivation must register as a sex offender. The determination of whether an offense is committed with sexual motivation is made by special allegation, which is filed by the prosecuting attorney. Once the special allegation has been made, the prosecutor has the burden of proving that the offense was committed with sexual motivation beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury (or to a judge if a jury is waived). The prosecutor may not withdraw the special allegation without the permission of the court.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 16, 2008.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.