

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6294

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As of January 28, 2002

**Title:** An act relating to sex offender community notification in languages other than English.

**Brief Description:** Requiring sex offender community notification in foreign languages.

**Sponsors:** Senators T. Sheldon, Costa, Shin, Fairley, Regala, Kline, Keiser, Gardner, Hargrove, Haugen, Kastama, Prentice, McAuliffe and Jacobsen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 1/23/02.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Staff:** Tony Rugel (786-7754)

**Background:** Some geographic areas of the state may contain significant populations for whom English is not the primary language. It is difficult for these populations to be effectively notified of a sex offender's presence when the sheriff produces level III community notification flyers.

**Summary of Bill:** In the areas where English is not the primary language, the sheriff produces level III community notification flyers in the five most common languages of the local resident populations. Examples of these languages are Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, and Chinese.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** January 18, 2002.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2003.

**Testimony For:** None.

**Testimony Against:** The intent of the bill is right but the bill as written would be too difficult to implement. The difficulties would be: knowing which languages to print the notifications in; finding interpreters; and knowing when and where to do the notifications.

**Testified:** Joseph Beard, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (con); Larry Erickson, Wash. Assoc. of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (con).