

HB 177 -- SEX OFFENDERS

SPONSOR: Weter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill allows each county sheriff to maintain a web page, available to the public, providing information about registered sexual offenders. The web page can show only an offender's name, address, photograph, and the crimes for which the offender was required to register.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that current law does not specifically allow a county to post the photo of a registered sex offender on the Internet. Each county must keep a sex offender list, but only the names, addresses, and sexual offenses committed are public records. The bill clarifies that counties can provide this information over the Internet and allows them to include photos of the offenders.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Weter; and Greene County Sheriff's Department.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst