

State Representative
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Sex Offender Registration Bill Passes Oregon Senate

(Salem) The Oregon Senate closed a loophole in state law today regarding sex offender registration by unanimously passing [House Bill 3204](#). State Representative [Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul) sponsored the legislation after learning there were sex offenders who were working and going to school in Oregon who were not required to register.

“We’re talking about sex offenders who live out of state but are still employed or attend college in Oregon,” said Thatcher. “Under current law if one of these offenders committed a sex crime in another state they would have to register as a sex offender with the Oregon State Police (OSP) but if they committed the crime in Oregon they would not. HB 3204 makes our laws consistent and requires both categories of offenders to register in Oregon.”

OSP report around 50 sex offenders who reside out of state have been working or attending school in Oregon but were not on the state sex offender registry.

The [Oregon District Attorneys Association](#) (ODAA) and the [Oregon Department of Justice](#) added another section to the original bill. That language helps clarify the requirements for when and in which county sex offenders must register. An Oregon Court of Appeals case earlier this year pointed out deficiencies in Oregon law.

“Our communities have made it clear that the registration of sex offenders is a public safety issue,” said Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry, Chair of the ODAA Legislative Committee. “HB 3204 makes important changes to clarify registration for law enforcement, offenders, and the court.”

HB 3204 also passed the House unanimously and it now moves to Governor Kitzhaber’s desk for his signature.

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