

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H2008

TITLE: An Act prohibiting name-changing for registered sex offenders.

SPONSOR: Rep. Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida

COSPONSOR(S): None

HEARING DATE: June 17, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1774 (2023-2024)
H1884 (2021-2022)
H4136 (2019-2020)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 178D of Chapter 6 establishes the sex offender registry board which requires every sex offender to register with registration data consisting of name, aliases used, date and place of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color, social security number, home address, any secondary addresses and work address and, if the sex offender works at or attends an institution of higher learning, the name and address of the institution, photograph, fingerprints and a description of the offense. It also creates an online registry that publishes the following information for offenders: (i) the name of the sex offender; (ii) the offender's home address and any secondary addresses; (iii) the offender's work address; (iv) the offense for which the offender was convicted or adjudicated and the date of the conviction or adjudication; (v) the sex offender's age, sex, race, height, weight, eye and hair color; (vi) a photograph of the sex offender, if available; (vii) whether the sex offender has been designated a sexually violent predator; and (viii) whether the offender is in compliance with the registration obligations of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive.

Section 178E of Chapter 6 establishes the methods and procedure for the Commonwealth to transmit the status and information of sex offenders to the federal government.

Section 178H of Chapter 6 establishes the punishments for a sex offender who fails to register properly.

Section 1D of Chapter 46 permits parties to a marriage to adopt either of each other's names, retain their own or adopt a hyphenated combination.

Section 12 of Chapter 210 establishes probate court jurisdiction to hear petitions for name changes and requires they be granted unless the change would be against the public interest

BILL SUMMARY:

Section 1 – Adds a prohibition to Section 178E of Chapter 6 preventing offenders from holding themselves out at any name other than their registered one.

Section 2 – Adds to the list of punishable violations in Section 178H of Chapter 6 a violation of the new name requirement added to Section 178E.

Section 3 - Adds a prohibition against sex offenders changing their names to Section 1D of Chapter 46.

Section 4 – Adds a prohibition against sex offenders changing their names to Section 12 of Chapter 210.