

Aruna Miller  
Lt. GovernorWes Moore  
GovernorVincent Schiraldi  
Secretary

**Date:** February 26, 2025  
**Bill Number/Title:** HB 638 - Juveniles - Sexual Offenses - Registration and Reporting Requirements  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**DJS Position:** Oppose

DJS opposes HB 638, which requires juvenile sex offender registrants to remain on the registry until 21 regardless of whether the court terminates juvenile court jurisdiction. Additionally, HB 638 expands the definition of “reportable offense” to include specific sexual offenses, requiring law enforcement agencies and State’s Attorneys to notify schools when a child is arrested for such offenses.

Currently, youth placed on the juvenile sex offender registry remain on it until they turn 21 or the court terminates jurisdiction, at which point they are removed. HB 638 would change this by requiring youth to remain on the registry until age 21, even if the court terminates jurisdiction earlier.

This bill is unnecessary, as the court is best positioned to determine whether it is in the child's and the public’s best interest for the case to remain under its jurisdiction and for the youth to stay on the registry. Additionally, HB 638 could result in youth remaining on the registry without court oversight, removing the court’s ability to monitor compliance with registry requirements.

Lastly, DJS opposes expanding the list of reportable offenses to include all offenses that are subject to the juvenile sex offender registry. Superintendents are already alerted if a youth is charged with a reportable offense and the judicial outcome of the matter, which includes offenses that would be subject to the juvenile sex offender registry.

For these reasons, DJS requests an unfavorable report on HB 638.

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