

Aruna Miller
Lt. GovernorWes Moore
GovernorVincent Schiraldi
Secretary

Date: February 26, 2025
Bill Number/Title: HB 952 - Juvenile Sex Offender Registry - Qualifying Offenses and Access
Offense – Alterations
Committee: Judiciary
DJS Position: Oppose

DJS opposes HB 952, which seeks to authorize a local superintendent or their designee to access the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry. The bill also expands the list of offenses that require a person adjudicated delinquent to be included in the registry and makes broader changes related to juvenile records and the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry.

Expanding access to the juvenile sex offender registry is a significant departure from the current framework that permits only law enforcement access to the registry and only for law enforcement purposes. Moreover, 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.

Expanding the narrowly tailored juvenile sex offender registry may result in students being unfairly excluded, stigmatized and penalized. Research consistently shows that school engagement is a critical protective factor in preventing delinquency. This additional information sharing will result in isolating students from a structured, supportive environment, increasing the likelihood of future challenges, including academic failure, behavioral problems, and involvement in the justice system.

For these reasons, DJS requests an unfavorable report on HB 952.

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