



DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE SERVICES

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Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

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Date:	January 29, 2026
Bill Number/Title:	HB 12- Juvenile Sex Offender Registry - Qualifying Offenses and Access
Committee:	Judiciary
DJS Position:	Oppose

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) opposes HB 12, 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 represents a significant departure from the current statutory framework, which permits access only by law enforcement and solely for law enforcement purposes. Moreover, local superintendents are already notified when a youth is charged with a reportable offense and of the judicial outcome of that matter, including offenses that would otherwise be subject to inclusion in the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry.

Broadening access to what is intended to be a narrowly tailored registry risks unfairly excluding, stigmatizing, and penalizing students. Research consistently demonstrates that school engagement is a critical protective factor in preventing delinquency. Additional information sharing of this nature is likely to isolate students from structured and supportive educational environments, thereby increasing the risk of future challenges, including academic failure, behavioral issues, and deeper involvement in the justice system.

For these reasons, DJS respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 12.