

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2006 LB 1199

adopt residency restrictions. So I'm putting forward to you what I would consider common-sense guidelines that municipalities must follow if they want to enact a residency restriction in their communities. So what we are saying in this bill is that a community cannot...this is what they can do. The restriction cannot exceed 500 feet and can include only...limited from schools and licensed day-care facilities. It's limited to high-risk sex offenders, third-degree sex offenders who have committed crimes against children, and this would preempt local ordinances that have already been passed. So again, the residency restriction would say that a community can adopt a restriction no more restrictive than 500 feet from a school or a licensed day-care facility for third-degree sex offenders who have had a previous crime against a child. It also...this bill would also change the Sex Offender Commitment Act. It creates a Sex Offender Commitment Act to make it easier to civilly commit sex offenders who will likely perpetrate future acts of sexual violence and who are unable to control their behavior. It requires 90-day notice to the appropriate county attorneys and the Attorney General of the pending release of a sex offender from incarceration. It requires the county attorney to notify the Attorney General, within 45 days of receiving notice of release, whether or not he or she intends to pursue civil commitment. Part of the problem, as we researched this, is the current practice is, when an individual is getting ready to be released from the prison, the Department of Corrections, if they have determined that that individual is still a danger to society, Department of Corrections would notify the county attorney from which the individual came and say, this offender is getting ready to be released; we feel he's a danger to society; we recommend that you initiate civil commitment hearings. If that county attorney, for whatever reason, doesn't do it, that person will not be subject to a civil commitment hearing. We felt that was a hole in the system, and so what we're advocating is that notice be provided to the county attorney from which this individual came, and then that individual has to notify the Attorney General within a certain time period, and the ultimate authority of whether or not to initiate civil commitment hearings would reside with the Attorney General. It also mandates that the Department of Correctional Services conduct civil commitment evaluations 180