

(j) Within 5 days after obtaining a verification form from [a child sexual offender and] a sexually violent predator, a local law enforcement agency shall send a copy of the verification form to the Department.

(k) [If a registrant will reside after release in a municipal corporation that has a police department, or, in the case where a registrant escapes from a facility and the offender resided, before the offender was committed to the custody of a supervising authority, in a municipal corporation that has a police department, the Department shall send a copy of the registration statement or change in registration to the police department of the municipal corporation.

(l) (1) A sexually violent predator who has been registered under this section for at least 10 years may file a petition requesting a court to rule that the person is no longer a sexually violent predator.

(2) A petition under this subsection shall be filed in the circuit court for the county where the sexually violent predator was convicted or has a residence.

(3) On the filing of a petition under this subsection, the court shall consider any evidence that the court considers appropriate.

(4) Within 30 days after the filing of a petition under this subsection, the court shall:

(i) Dismiss the petition; or

(ii) Issue an order stating that the registrant is no longer considered a sexually violent predator.

(5) If a petition is dismissed under paragraph (4)(i) of this subsection, the sexually violent predator may file a subsequent petition subject to the same procedures after each 5-year period after the dismissal.

(L) AN ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE, OR PUBLIC AGENCY IS IMMUNE FROM SHALL HAVE THE IMMUNITY DESCRIBED IN §§ 5-522 AND 5-302 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE REGARDING CIVIL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF ANY ACTION RELATING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS IT IS SHOWN THAT THE OFFICIAL, EMPLOYEE, OR AGENCY ACTED WITH GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR IN BAD FAITH.

(m) A registrant who knowingly fails to register OR KNOWINGLY PROVIDES FALSE INFORMATION OF A MATERIAL FACT as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than 3 years or a fine of not more than \$5,000 or both.

(n) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section WITH ADVICE FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER § 744 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.