



**Florida Action Committee, Inc.**  
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February 7, 2020

Senator Anitere Flores  
406 Senate Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

SENT VIA EMAIL AND  
VIA US MAIL

**RE: SB 1552 (2020) – LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Dear Senator Flores:

I am President of the Florida Action Committee (FAC). We are a 2000+ member non-profit organization that advocates for public safety and laws based on best practices and empirical research. Our members include persons required to register as sex offenders, their families, treatment providers, re-entry specialists and other stakeholders. As such, we are keenly aware of the practical impacts of Florida Statute §943.0435.

We write concerning a bill you introduced, S.B. 1552, which seeks to make certain changes to the registration requirements under Florida Statutes. While we appreciate that your bill would clarify an ambiguity that exists in the current statute (the definition of “within 48 hours”) and allow registration of “vehicles owned” online (as opposed to requiring these changes be made in person), I wanted to point out that the original Statute and your bill both render emergency travel impossible when registration offices are closed.

For example; if a registrant living in Broward County learns at 4:35PM on a Friday that his child suffered a medical emergency out-of-state and he wants to travel to their hospital bedside, he can leave no earlier than Monday after 8:30AM because the registration office in the Courthouse is not open between Friday at 4:30PM and Monday at 8:30AM. Because the Statute<sup>1</sup> (and your bill) require that a registrant must report IN PERSON before departure and makes no provision for emergencies, the person would not be able to leave on an emergency basis or for unplanned trips.

To accommodate the reporting requirements that must be made *in person* to the County Sheriffs’, there is only one designated registration location per County<sup>2</sup>. Of all the County registration offices; only four are open 7 days a week, 40 are open five days a week, 5 are open four days a week, 7 are open three days a week, 9 are open twice a week, two are only open one day per week.

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<sup>1</sup> Registrants must report to the Sheriff, in person, within 48 hours of any change in interstate permanent, temporary or transient residence (F.S. 943.0435(7); 775.21(6)(i)). Effective 2018, all temporary vacation or business travel for three (3) or more days now require in person registration.

<sup>2</sup> <https://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/Documents/REREGISTRATIONLOCATIONS.pdf>

In the scenario described above, which I assure you happens quite frequently, a person would not be able to attend to a family emergency or take an unplanned trip if their departure would occur at a time or day when the registration office was closed.

Please keep in mind that this law applies to people for life and the majority of those on the registry are no longer on probation. To effectively prohibit emergency or unplanned travel (by subjecting them to a third-degree felony for not complying even at a moment when compliance is impossible) is simply cruel.

We implore you to please consider incorporating language into your bill that would accommodate emergency or unplanned travel by also allowing temporary travel to be reported online. The public would not be at any risk, because the very same information that would be reported to law enforcement in person, would be reported online 24/7 via the cyber reporting portal (as would be vehicle registration under your bill).

A bill making that accommodation would not only be more humane, but would be one that our organization could get behind and support.

If you would like to discuss this further, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you anytime.

Sincerely,  
*/s/ Gail Colletta*

Cc: All Senators