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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. GIANARIS, KOON, SPANO -- read once and referred
to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to notice to sex offenders of their determination hearing and the penalty for violations by sex offenders

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 4 of section 168-d of the correction law, subdivision 2 as amended and subdivision 4 as added by chapter 684 of the laws of 2005, are amended to read as follows:

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2. Any sex offender, who is released on probation or discharged upon payment of a fine, conditional discharge or unconditional discharge shall, prior to such release or discharge, be informed of his or her 6 7 duty to register under this article by the court in which he or she 8 convicted. At the time sentence is imposed, such sex offender shall 9 register with the division on a form prepared by the division. The court shall require the sex offender to read and sign such form and to 10 11 complete the registration portion of such form. The court shall on such form obtain the address where the sex offender expects to reside upon 12 13 his or her release, and the name and address of any institution of higher education he or she expects to be employed by, enrolled in, attending 14 15 employed, whether for compensation or not, and whether he or she 16 expects to reside in a facility owned or operated by such an institu-17 tion, and shall report such information to the division. The court shall 18 give one copy of the form to the sex offender and shall send two copies to the division which shall forward the information to the law enforce-19 ment agencies having jurisdiction. The court shall also notify the 20 district attorney and the sex offender of the date of the determination 21 proceeding to be held pursuant to subdivision three of this section, 22 which shall be held at least forty-five days after such notice is given. 24 [This] THE notice TO THE SEX OFFENDER shall include the following state-

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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ment [or a substantially similar statement]: "This proceeding is being held to determine whether you will be classified as a level 3 offender 3 (risk of repeat offense is high), a level 2 offender (risk of offense is moderate), or a level 1 offender (risk of repeat offense is low), or whether you will be designated as a sexual predator, a sexually violent offender or a predicate sex offender, which will determine how 7 long you must register as a sex offender and how much information can be provided to the public concerning your registration. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE COURT MAKES THESE DETERMINATIONS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT 9 10 TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL AT THAT HEARING. COUNSEL WILL BE PROVIDED ARE FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO RETAIN COUNSEL. FAILURE TO APPEAR AT 11 THE HEARING IS A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE. If you fail to appear at this proceeding, [without sufficient excuse,] it shall be held in your 12 13 14 absence. Failure to appear may result in a longer period of registration 15 or a higher level of community notification because you are not present 16 to offer evidence or contest evidence offered by the district attorney." 17 [The court shall also advise the sex offender that he or she has a right a hearing prior to the court's determination, that he or she has the 18 19 right to be represented by counsel at the hearing and that counsel will 20 appointed if he or she is financially unable to retain counsel.] If 21 the sex offender applies for assignment of counsel to represent him or at the hearing and counsel was not previously assigned to represent the sex offender in the underlying criminal action, the court shall 23 determine whether the offender is financially unable to retain counsel. 24 25 If such a finding is made, the court shall assign counsel to represent 26 the sex offender pursuant to article eighteen-B of the county law. Where 27 the court orders a sex offender released on probation, such order must include a provision requiring that he or she comply with the require-28 29 ments of this article. Where such sex offender violates such provision, probation may be immediately revoked in the manner provided by article 30 four hundred ten of the criminal procedure law. 31 32

- 4. If a sex offender, having been given notice OF THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, including the time and place [of the determination proceeding] THEREOF in accordance with this section, fails to appear AND BE HEARD at [this] SUCH proceeding, [without sufficient excuse,] the court shall conduct the hearing and make the determinations in the manner set forth in subdivision three of this section.
- S 2. Section 168-f of the correction law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:
- 1-A. EACH SEX OFFENDER SHALL APPEAR AT THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-D OF THIS ARTICLE, SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-K OF THIS ARTICLE OR SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-N OF THIS ARTICLE, HELD TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF NOTIFICATION AND WHETHER SUCH SEX OFFENDER SHALL BE DESIGNATED A SEXUAL PREDATOR, SEXUALLY VIOLENT OFFENDER, OR PREDICATE SEX OFFENDER.
- S 3. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section 168-f of the correction law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:
- (c) If the sex offender fails to mail the signed verification form to the division within ten calendar days after receipt of the form, he or she shall be in violation of this [section unless he proves that he or she has not changed his or her residence address] ARTICLE.
- S 4. Subdivisions 2 and 4 of section 168-k of the correction law, subdivision 2 as amended and subdivision 4 as added by chapter 684 of the laws of 2005, are amended to read as follows:

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2. The division shall advise the board that the sex offender has 1 2 established residence in this state. The board shall determine whether the sex offender is required to register with the division. determined that the sex offender is required to register, the division shall notify the sex offender of his or her duty to register under this 5 6 article and shall require the sex offender to sign a form as may be 7 required by the division acknowledging that the duty to register and the procedure for registration has been explained to the sex offender. The division shall obtain on such form the address where the sex offender 9 10 expects to reside within the state and the sex offender shall retain one 11 copy of the form and send two copies to the division which shall provide the information to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where 12 the sex offender expects to reside within this state. No later than 13 14 thirty days prior to the board making a recommendation, the sex offender 15 shall be notified that his or her case is under review and that he or she is permitted to submit to the board any information relevant to the 16 review. After reviewing any information obtained, and applying the 17 18 quidelines established in subdivision five of section one hundred sixty-eight-l of this article, the board shall within sixty calendar days make a recommendation regarding the level of notification pursuant 19 20 21 to subdivision six of section one hundred sixty-eight-l of this article 22 and whether such sex offender shall be designated a sexual predator, sexually violent offender, or predicate sex offender as defined in subdivision seven of section one hundred sixty-eight-a of this article. 23 24 25 This recommendation shall be confidential and shall not be available for public inspection. It shall be submitted by the board to the county 26 court or supreme court and to the district attorney in the county of residence of the sex offender and to the sex offender. It shall be the 27 28 29 duty of the county court or supreme court in the county of residence of 30 the sex offender, applying the guidelines established in subdivision five of section one hundred sixty-eight-l of this article, to determine 31 32 level of notification pursuant to subdivision six of section one 33 hundred sixty-eight-1 of this article and whether such sex offender shall be designated a sexual predator, sexually violent offender, or predicate sex offender as defined in subdivision seven of section one 34 35 36 hundred sixty-eight-a of this article. At least thirty days prior to the 37 determination proceeding, such court shall notify the district attorney and the sex offender, in writing, of the date of the determination 38 proceeding and the court shall also provide the district attorney and 39 40 sex offender with a copy of the recommendation received from the board 41 and any statement of the reasons for the recommendation received from 42 the board. [This] THE notice TO THE SEX OFFENDER shall include the 43 following statement [or a substantially similar statement]: 44 proceeding is being held to determine whether you will be classified as 45 level 3 offender (risk of repeat offense is high), a level 2 offender (risk of repeat offense is moderate), or a level 1 offender (risk of 46 47 repeat offense is low), or whether you will be designated as a sexual predator, a sexually violent offender or a predicate sex offender, which 48 will determine how long you must register as a sex offender and how much 49 50 information can be provided to the public concerning your registration. HAVE A RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE COURT MAKES THESE DETERMI-51 52 NATIONS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL AT THAT COUNSEL WILL BE PROVIDED IF YOU ARE FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO RETAIN COUN-53 54 SEL. FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING IS A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE. If you fail to appear at this proceeding, [without sufficient excuse,] it 56 shall be held in your absence. Failure to appear may result in a longer

period of registration or a higher level of community notification because you are not present to offer evidence or contest evidence 3 offered by the district attorney." [The court shall also advise the sex offender that he or she has a right to a hearing prior to the court's 5 determination, that he or she has the right to be represented by counsel 6 at the hearing and that counsel will be appointed if he or she is finan-7 cially unable to retain counsel.] A returnable form shall be enclosed in 8 the court's notice to the sex offender on which the sex offender may apply for assignment of counsel. If the sex offender applies for 9 10 assignment of counsel and the court finds that the offender is 11 cially unable to retain counsel, the court shall assign counsel to represent the sex offender pursuant to article eighteen-B of the county 12 13 law. If the district attorney seeks a determination that differs from 14 the recommendation submitted by the board, at least ten days prior 15 the determination proceeding the district attorney shall provide to the 16 court and the sex offender a statement setting forth the determinations 17 sought by the district attorney together with the reasons for seeking such determinations. The court shall allow the sex offender to appear 18 and be heard. The state shall appear by the district attorney, or his or 19 her designee, who shall bear the burden of proving the facts supporting 20 21 the determinations sought by clear and convincing evidence. It shall be the duty of the court applying the guidelines established in subdivision 23 five of section one hundred sixty-eight-l of this article to determine the level of notification pursuant to subdivision six of section one 24 25 hundred sixty-eight-l of this article and whether such sex offender shall be designated a sexual predator, sexually violent offender, or predicate sex offender as defined in subdivision seven of section one hundred sixty-eight-a of this article. Where there is a dispute between 26 27 28 29 the parties concerning the determinations, the court shall adjourn the 30 hearing as necessary to permit the sex offender or the district attorney to obtain materials relevant to the determinations from the state board 31 32 examiners of sex offenders or any state or local facility, hospital, 33 institution, office, agency, department or division. Such materials obtained by subpoena if not voluntarily provided to the requesting 34 party. In making the determinations the court shall review any victim's 35 36 statement and any relevant materials and evidence submitted by the sex 37 offender and the district attorney and the recommendation and any material submitted by the board, and may consider reliable hearsay evidence 38 submitted by either party, provided that it is relevant to the determi-39 40 If available, facts proven at trial or elicited at the time of a plea of guilty shall be deemed established by clear and convincing 41 evidence and shall not be relitigated. The court shall render an order 42 setting forth its determinations and the findings of fact and conclu-43 44 sions of law on which the determinations are based. A copy of the order 45 shall be submitted by the court to the division. Upon application of either party, the court shall seal any portion of the court file or 46 47 record which contains material that is confidential under any state or federal statute. Either party may appeal as of right from the order pursuant to the provisions of articles fifty-five, fifty-six and fifty-48 49 50 seven of the civil practice law and rules. Where counsel has been assigned to represent the sex offender upon the ground that 51 offender is financially unable to retain counsel, that assignment shall 52 be continued throughout the pendency of the appeal, and the person may 53 54 appeal as a poor person pursuant to article eighteen-B of the county 55 law.

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4. If a sex offender, having been given notice OF THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, including the time and place [of the determination proceeding] THEREOF in accordance with this section, fails to appear AND BE HEARD at [this] SUCH proceeding, [without sufficient excuse,] the court shall conduct the hearing and make the determinations in the manner set forth in subdivision two of this section.

- S 5. Subdivisions 3 and 6 of section 168-n of the correction law, subdivision 3 as amended and subdivision 6 as added by chapter 684 of the laws of 2005, are amended to read as follows:
- 9 10 3. No later than thirty days prior to the board's recommendation, sex offender shall be notified that his or her case is under review and 11 that he or she is permitted to submit to the board any information rele-12 vant to the review. Upon receipt of the board's recommendation, 13 14 sentencing court shall determine whether the sex offender was previously 15 found to be eligible for assigned counsel in the underlying case. Where such a finding was previously made, the court shall assign counsel to represent the offender, pursuant to article eighteen-B of the county 16 17 18 law. At least twenty days prior to the determination proceeding, 19 sentencing court shall notify the district attorney, the sex offender 20 and the sex offender's counsel, in writing, of the date of the determi-21 nation proceeding and shall also provide the district attorney, the sex 22 offender and the sex offender's counsel with a copy of the recommendation received from the board and any statement of the reasons for the recommendation received from the board. [This] THE notice TO THE SEX 23 24 25 OFFENDER shall include the following statement [or a substantially simi-"This proceeding is being held to determine whether you 26 lar statement]: 27 will be classified as a level 3 offender (risk of repeat offense is high), a level 2 offender (risk of repeat offense is moderate), or 28 level 1 offender (risk of repeat offense is low), or whether you will be 29 30 designated as a sexual predator, a sexually violent offender or a predicate sex offender, which will determine how long you must register as a 31 32 sex offender and how much information can be provided to the public 33 concerning your registration. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE COURT MAKES THESE DETERMINATIONS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED 34 35 COUNSEL AT THAT HEARING. COUNSEL WILL BE PROVIDED IF YOU ARE FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO RETAIN COUNSEL. FAILURE TO APPEAR AT 36 THE HEARING IS A 37 VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE. If you fail to appear at this proceeding, [without sufficient excuse,] it shall be held in your absence. Failure 38 39 to appear may result in a longer period of registration or a higher 40 level of community notification because you are not present to offer evidence or contest evidence offered by the district attorney." 41 written notice to the sex offender shall also advise the offender that 42 43 he or she has a right to a hearing prior to the court's determination, 44 that he or she has the right to be represented by counsel at the 45 hearing.] If counsel has been assigned to represent the offender at determination proceeding, the notice shall also provide the name, 46 47 address and telephone number of the assigned counsel. Where counsel not been assigned, [the notice shall advise the sex offender that coun-48 sel will be appointed if he or she is financially unable to retain coun-49 50 sel, and] a returnable form shall be enclosed in the court's notice to 51 the sex offender on which the sex offender may apply for assignment of 52 counsel. If the sex offender applies for assignment of counsel and the court finds that the offender is financially unable to retain counsel, 53 54 the court shall assign counsel to represent the sex offender pursuant to article eighteen-B of the county law. If the district attorney seeks a determination that differs from the recommendation submitted by the 56

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board, at least ten days prior to the determination proceeding the district attorney shall provide to the court and the sex offender a 3 statement setting forth the determinations sought by the district attorney together with the reasons for seeking such determinations. The court shall allow the sex offender to appear and be heard. The state shall appear by the district attorney, or his or her designee, who shall bear 5 6 7 the burden of proving the facts supporting the determinations sought by clear and convincing evidence. Where there is a dispute between the 9 parties concerning the determinations, the court shall adjourn the hear-10 ing as necessary to permit the sex offender or the district attorney to 11 obtain materials relevant to the determinations from the state board of examiners of sex offenders or any state or local facility, hospital, 12 13 institution, office, agency, department or division. Such materials may 14 be obtained by subpoena if not voluntarily provided to the requesting party. In making the determinations the court shall review any victim's 15 16 statement and any relevant materials and evidence submitted by the sex 17 and the district attorney and the recommendation and any mateoffender 18 rials submitted by the board, and may consider reliable hearsay evidence submitted by either party, provided that it is relevant to the determi-19 20 nations. Facts previously proven at trial or elicited at the time of 21 entry of a plea of guilty shall be deemed established by 22 convincing evidence and shall not be relitigated. The court shall render 23 an order setting forth its determinations and the findings of fact and conclusions of law on which the determinations are based. A copy of the 24 25 order shall be submitted by the court to the division. Upon application 26 of either party, the court shall seal any portion of the court file 27 record which contains material that is confidential under any state or 28 federal statute. Either party may appeal as of right from the order 29 pursuant to the provisions of articles fifty-five, fifty-six and fiftyseven of the civil practice law and rules. Where counsel has been 30 assigned to represent the sex offender upon the ground that the sex 31 32 offender is financially unable to retain counsel, that assignment shall 33 continued throughout the pendency of the appeal, and the person may 34 appeal as a poor person pursuant to article eighteen-B of the county 35 36

- 6. If a sex offender, having been given notice OF THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, including the time and place [of the determination proceeding] THEREOF in accordance with this section, fails to appear AND BE HEARD at [this] SUCH proceeding, [without sufficient excuse,] the court shall conduct the hearing and make the determinations in the manner set forth in subdivision three of this section.
- S 6. Section 168-t of the correction law, as amended by chapter 373 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:
- 44 S 168-t. [Penalty] FAILURE TO REGISTER, APPEAR AT THE DETERMINATION 45 PROCEEDING, ANNUALLY VERIFY, PERSONALLY VERIFY, NOTIFY OF STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOTIFY OF ADDRESS CHANGE OR CHANGE 46 47 STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOTIFY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF 48 RESIDENCE INSTATE, OR COMPLY WITH THE PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT ON 49 MOTOR VEHICLES ENGAGED IN RETAIL SALE OF FROZEN DESSERTS; PENALTY. 50 Any sex offender required to register [or to verify] pursuant to the 51 provisions of this article [who fails to register or verify in the manner and within the time periods provided for in this article shall 52 be] IS guilty of [a class E felony upon conviction for the first 53 54 offense, and upon conviction for a second or subsequent offense shall be 55 quilty of] FAILURE TO REGISTER, APPEAR AT THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, ANNUALLY VERIFY, PERSONALLY VERIFY, NOTIFY OF STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION 56

OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOTIFY OF ADDRESS CHANGE OR CHANGE OF STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOTIFY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENCE IN STATE, OR COMPLY WITH THE PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT ON MOTOR VEHICLES ENGAGED IN THE RETAIL SALE OF FROZEN DESSERTS WHEN HE OR SHE:

- (A) FAILS TO REGISTER WITH THE DIVISION ON A FORM PREPARED BY THE DIVISION (I) AT LEAST TEN CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO DISCHARGE, PAROLE, RELEASE TO POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION OR RELEASE FROM ANY STATE OR LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION WHERE HE OR SHE WAS CONFINED OR COMMITTED, OR (II) AT THE TIME SENTENCE IS IMPOSED FOR ANY SEX OFFENDER RELEASED ON PROBATION OR DISCHARGED UPON PAYMENT OF A FINE, CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE OR UNCONDITIONAL DISCHARGE, OR (III) UPON THE DIVISION'S REQUEST FOLLOWING A DETERMINATION BY THE BOARD THAT THE OFFENDER IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-K OF THIS ARTICLE; OR
- (B) FAILS TO APPEAR AT THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-D OF THIS ARTICLE, SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-K OF THIS ARTICLE OR SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-N OF THIS ARTICLE, HELD TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF NOTIFICATION AND WHETHER SUCH SEX OFFENDER SHALL BE DESIGNATED A SEXUAL PREDATOR, SEXUALLY VIOLENT OFFENDER, OR PREDICATE SEX OFFENDER; OR
- (C) FAILS TO SIGN AND RETURN TO THE DIVISION THE ANNUAL VERIFICATION FORM MAILED BY THE DIVISION TO HIS OR HER LAST REPORTED ADDRESS PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-B OF THIS ARTICLE WITHIN TEN CALENDAR DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE FORM; OR
- (D) FAILS TO PERSONALLY VERIFY HIS OR HER ADDRESS WITH THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY EVERY NINETY CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF RELEASE OR COMMENCEMENT OF PAROLE OR POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION, OR PROBATION, OR RELEASE ON PAYMENT OF A FINE, CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE OR UNCONDITIONAL DISCHARGE AFTER HAVING BEEN GIVEN A LEVEL THREE DESIGNATION OR HAVING BEEN DESIGNATED A SEXUAL PREDATOR; OR
- (E) FAILS TO PROVIDE THE DIVISION WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION HE OR SHE EXPECTS TO BE EMPLOYED BY, ENROLLED IN, ATTENDING OR EMPLOYED AT, WHETHER FOR COMPENSATION OR NOT, AND WHETHER HE OR SHE EXPECTS TO RESIDE IN A FACILITY OWNED OR OPERATED BY SUCH AN INSTITUTION; OR
- (F) FAILS TO NOTIFY THE DIVISION NO LATER THAN TEN CALENDAR DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS; OR
- (G) FAILS TO NOTIFY THE DIVISION NO LATER THAN TEN CALENDAR DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE OF STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; OR
- (H) FAILS TO NOTIFY THE DIVISION WITHIN TEN CALENDAR DAYS AFTER ESTABLISHING RESIDENCE IN THIS STATE IN THE CASE OF A SEX OFFENDER WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF AN OFFENSE WHICH REQUIRES REGISTRATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (D) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-A OF THIS ARTICLE OR PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-A OF THIS ARTICLE; OR
- (I) VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT-V OF THIS ARTICLE.
- 2. FAILURE TO REGISTER, APPEAR AT THE DETERMINATION PROCEEDING, ANNUALLY VERIFY, PERSONALLY VERIFY, NOTIFY OF STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOTIFY OF ADDRESS CHANGE OR CHANGE OF STATUS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOTIFY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENCE IN STATE, OR COMPLY WITH THE PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT ON MOTOR VEHICLES ENGAGED IN THE RETAIL SALE OF FROZEN DESSERTS IS a class D felony. [Any sex offender who violates the provisions of section one hundred sixty-eight-v of this article shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor upon

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conviction for the first offense, and upon conviction for a second or

- subsequent offense shall be guilty of a class D felony.]

  3. Any such failure [to register or verify] may also be the basis for revocation of parole pursuant to section two hundred fifty-nine-i of the executive law or the basis for revocation of probation pursuant to article four hundred ten of the criminal procedure law.
  - S 7. This act shall take effect immediately.