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RWH 5/16/08

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 227, *approved January 3, 2008*  
Senate, No. 2516

1 AN ACT requiring a study of Megan's Law, and supplementing  
2 chapter 7 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that New Jersey enacted  
8 the groundbreaking legislation known as Megan's Law in 1994 to  
9 warn citizens that a dangerous sex offender had moved into their  
10 neighborhood. At that time more than a decade ago, the law created  
11 the most comprehensive system of sex offender registration and  
12 community notification in the nation. Subsequently, the Legislature  
13 enacted the law establishing the sex offender Internet registry,  
14 utilizing modern technology to afford even greater access to  
15 information concerning dangerous sex offenders and make that  
16 information readily accessible to the public.

17 Recently, however, questions have been raised concerning the  
18 implementation of Megan's Law, and whether the law is not  
19 consistently applied in the 21 counties. Published reports indicate  
20 that there are great variations among the counties in the number of  
21 sex offenders whose registration information is published on the  
22 Internet. In addition, many municipalities have limited where sex  
23 offenders may reside, or banned residency by them altogether. It  
24 also has been observed that sex offenders seem to be relocating at a  
25 higher rate to certain areas of the State, suggesting that the law is  
26 being implemented differently in some areas. Since the evidence  
27 indicates that Megan's Law is being applied inconsistently across  
28 the State, the Legislature finds that a study should be undertaken to  
29 identify the causes of these inconsistencies and to recommend  
30 procedures to make the law's application more uniform and  
31 equitable.

32

33 2. a. The Violence Institute of the University of Medicine and  
34 Dentistry of New Jersey shall undertake a comprehensive study of  
35 the implementation and application of Megan's Law. Specifically,  
36 the institute shall examine the implementation and application of  
37 P.L.1994, c.133 (C.2C:7-1 et seq.), which requires registration by  
38 sex offenders and P.L.1994, c.128 (C.2C:7-8 et seq.), which  
39 requires community notification for certain sex offenders.

40 b. The study shall evaluate the current procedures utilized by the  
41 county prosecutors and the courts in determining a sex offender's  
42 tier designation and implementing community notification. In

1 evaluating these procedures, the study shall examine the disposition  
2 of all sex offenders who have registered and have been assigned a  
3 tier rating since the enactment of Megan's Law. The study shall  
4 make recommendations regarding the standardization of procedures  
5 for evaluating the risk of re-offense, assigning tier designations,  
6 implementing community notification, and ensuring uniform  
7 application of the Attorney General's guidelines by law  
8 enforcement in providing community notification. In addition, the  
9 study shall examine the use of the Internet registry in providing  
10 information to the public about sex offenders. Specifically, the  
11 study shall review the implementation of P.L.2001, c.167 (C.2C:7-  
12 12 et seq.) and determine whether the Internet registry has  
13 accomplished its mission to inform the public of dangerous sex  
14 offenders, or if geographic inconsistencies have mitigated its  
15 effectiveness. Finally, the study shall examine whether a central  
16 agency should be charged with the administration of Megan's Law  
17 and the determination as to which offenders appear on the Internet  
18 registry.

19

20 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month  
21 after enactment.

22

23

#### STATEMENT

24

25 This bill requires the Violence Institute of the University of  
26 Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey to undertake a  
27 comprehensive study of the implementation and application of  
28 Megan's Law. Specifically, the institute would be required to  
29 examine the implementation and application of the statutes  
30 requiring registration by sex offenders and community notification  
31 for certain sex offenders.

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43 about sex offenders. Finally, the study is to examine whether a  
44 central agency should be charged with the administration of  
45 Megan's Law and the determination as to which offenders appear  
46 on the Internet registry.

46

47

48

49 Requires Violence Institute of UMDNJ to undertake  
50 comprehensive study of Megan's Law.

# SENATE, No. 2516

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2007

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOHN A. GIRGENTI**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator PETER A. INVERSO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS M. MANZO**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

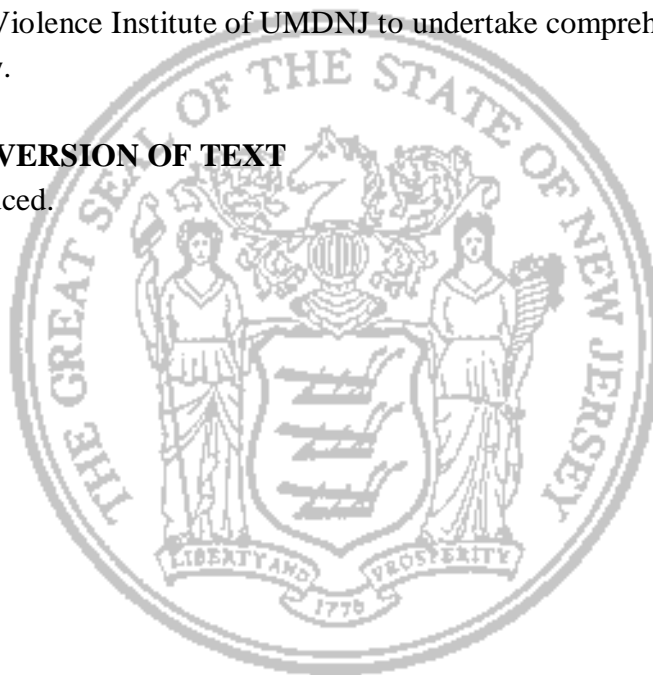
**Assemblywoman Lampitt**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Violence Institute of UMDNJ to undertake comprehensive study of Megan's Law.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2007)**

1 AN ACT requiring a study of Megan's Law, and supplementing  
2 chapter 7 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that New Jersey enacted  
8 the groundbreaking legislation known as Megan's Law in 1994 to  
9 warn citizens that a dangerous sex offender had moved into their  
10 neighborhood. At that time more than a decade ago, the law created  
11 the most comprehensive system of sex offender registration and  
12 community notification in the nation. Subsequently, the Legislature  
13 enacted the law establishing the sex offender Internet registry,  
14 utilizing modern technology to afford even greater access to  
15 information concerning dangerous sex offenders and make that  
16 information readily accessible to the public.

17 Recently, however, questions have been raised concerning the  
18 implementation of Megan's Law, and whether the law is not  
19 consistently applied in the 21 counties. Published reports indicate  
20 that there are great variations among the counties in the number of  
21 sex offenders whose registration information is published on the  
22 Internet. In addition, many municipalities have limited where sex  
23 offenders may reside, or banned residency by them altogether. It  
24 also has been observed that sex offenders seem to be relocating at a  
25 higher rate to certain areas of the State, suggesting that the law is  
26 being implemented differently in some areas. Since the evidence  
27 indicates that Megan's Law is being applied inconsistently across  
28 the State, the Legislature finds that a study should be undertaken to  
29 identify the causes of these inconsistencies and to recommend  
30 procedures to make the law's application more uniform and  
31 equitable.

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33 2. a. The Violence Institute of the University of Medicine and  
34 Dentistry of New Jersey shall undertake a comprehensive study of  
35 the implementation and application of Megan's Law. Specifically,  
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37 P.L.1994, c.133 (C.2C:7-1 et seq.), which requires registration by  
38 sex offenders and P.L.1994, c.128 (C.2C:7-8 et seq.), which  
39 requires community notification for certain sex offenders.

40 b. The study shall evaluate the current procedures utilized by the  
41 county prosecutors and the courts in determining a sex offender's  
42 tier designation and implementing community notification. In  
43 evaluating these procedures, the study shall examine the disposition  
44 of all sex offenders who have registered and have been assigned a  
45 tier rating since the enactment of Megan's Law. The study shall  
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47 for evaluating the risk of re-offense, assigning tier designations,  
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8 offenders, or if geographic inconsistencies have mitigated its  
9 effectiveness. Finally, the study shall examine whether a central  
10 agency should be charged with the administration of Megan's Law  
11 and the determination as to which offenders appear on the Internet  
12 registry.

13  
14 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month  
15 after enactment.

16  
17  
18 STATEMENT

19  
20 This bill requires the Violence Institute of the University of  
21 Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey to undertake a  
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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2516**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 21, 2007

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2516.

This bill requires the Violence Institute of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey to undertake a comprehensive study of the implementation and application of Megan's Law. Specifically, the institute would be required to examine the implementation and application of the statutes requiring registration by sex offenders and community notification for certain sex offenders.

The study is to evaluate the current procedures utilized by the county prosecutors and the courts in determining a sex offender's tier designation and implementing community notification. The institute also is charged with making recommendations regarding the standardization of procedures for evaluating the risk of re-offense, assigning tier designations, implementing community notification, and ensuring uniform application of the Attorney General's guidelines by law enforcement in providing community notification. In addition, the study shall specifically examine the use of the Internet registry in providing information to the public about sex offenders. Finally, the study is to examine whether a central agency should be charged with the administration of Megan's Law and the determination as to which offenders appear on the Internet registry.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4162.



SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2516**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2007

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2516.

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# ASSEMBLY, No. 4162

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2007

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblywoman **LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman **LOUIS M. MANZO**

District 31 (Hudson)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblywoman Lampitt

**SYNOPSIS**

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