

(Pub. L. 109-248, title I, §145, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 606.)

§ 16945. Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

(a) Establishment

There is established within the Department of Justice, under the general authority of the Attorney General, an Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “SMART Office”).

(b) Director

The SMART Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the President. The Director shall report to the Attorney General through the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs and shall have final authority for all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the SMART Office. The Director shall not engage in any employment other than that of serving as the Director, nor shall the Director hold any office in, or act in any capacity for, any organization, agency, or institution with which the Office makes any contract or other arrangement.

(c) Duties and functions

The SMART Office is authorized to—

(1) administer the standards for the sex offender registration and notification program set forth in this chapter;

(2) administer grant programs relating to sex offender registration and notification authorized by this chapter and other grant programs authorized by this chapter as directed by the Attorney General;

(3) cooperate with and provide technical assistance to States, units of local government, tribal governments, and other public and private entities involved in activities related to sex offender registration or notification or to other measures for the protection of children or other members of the public from sexual abuse or exploitation; and

(4) perform such other functions as the Attorney General may delegate.

(Pub. L. 109-248, title I, §146, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 607.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), (2), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 109-248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 587, known as the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 16901 of this title and Tables.

PART C—ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT ATTACKED OR ABUSED

§ 16961. Access to national crime information databases

(a) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall ensure access to the national crime information databases (as defined in section 534 of title 28) by—

(1) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to be used only within the scope of the Center’s duties and responsibilities under Federal law to assist or support law enforcement agencies in administration of criminal justice functions; and

(2) governmental social service agencies with child protection responsibilities, to be used by such agencies only in investigating or responding to reports of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

(b) Conditions of access

The access provided under this section, and associated rules of dissemination, shall be—

(1) defined by the Attorney General; and

(2) limited to personnel of the Center or such agencies that have met all requirements set by the Attorney General, including training, certification, and background screening.

(Pub. L. 109-248, title I, §151, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 608.)

§ 16962. Schools SAFE Act

(a) Short title

This section may be cited as the “Schools Safely Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act of 2006”.

(b) In general

The Attorney General of the United States shall, upon request of the chief executive officer of a State, conduct fingerprint-based checks of the national crime information databases (as defined in section 534(f)(3)(A) of title 28) pursuant to a request submitted by—

(1) a child welfare agency for the purpose of—

(A) conducting a background check required under section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)] on individuals under consideration as prospective foster or adoptive parents; or

(B) an investigation relating to an incident of abuse or neglect of a minor; or

(2) a private or public elementary school, a private or public secondary school, a local educational agency, or State educational agency in that State, on individuals employed by, under consideration for employment by, or otherwise in a position in which the individual would work with or around children in the school or agency.

(c) Fingerprint-based check

Where possible, the check shall include a fingerprint-based check of State criminal history databases.

(d) Fees

The Attorney General and the States may charge any applicable fees for the checks.

(e) Protection of information

An individual having information derived as a result of a check under subsection (b) may release that information only to appropriate officers of child welfare agencies, public or private elementary or secondary schools, or educational agencies or other persons authorized by law to receive that information.

(f) Criminal penalties

An individual who knowingly exceeds the authority in subsection (b), or knowingly releases information in violation of subsection (e), shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years or fined under title 18, or both.

(g) Child welfare agency defined

In this section, the term “child welfare agency” means—

(1) the State or local agency responsible for administering the plan under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 620 et seq., 670 et seq.]; and

(2) any other public agency, or any other private agency under contract with the State or local agency responsible for administering the plan under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act, that is responsible for the licensing or approval of foster or adoptive parents.

(h) Definition of education terms

In this section, the terms “elementary school”, “local educational agency”, “secondary school”, and “State educational agency” have the meanings given to those terms in section 7801 of title 20.

(Pub. L. 109-248, title I, §153, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 610; Pub. L. 114-95, title IX, §9215(b), Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 2166.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (g), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620. Parts B and E of title IV of the Act are classified generally to part B (§620 et seq.) and part E (§670 et seq.), respectively, of subchapter IV of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 153 of Pub. L. 109-248. Subsec. (i) of section 153 of Pub. L. 109-248 amended section 534 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 114-95 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 7801 of title 20.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114-95 effective Dec. 10, 2015, except with respect to certain noncompetitive programs and competitive programs, see section 5 of Pub. L. 114-95, set out as a note under section 6301 of Title 20, Education.

SUBCHAPTER II—CIVIL COMMITMENT OF DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS

§ 16971. Jimmy Ryce State civil commitment programs for sexually dangerous persons**(a) Grants authorized**

Except as provided in subsection (b), the Attorney General shall make grants to jurisdictions for the purpose of establishing, enhancing, or operating effective civil commitment programs for sexually dangerous persons.

(b) Limitation

The Attorney General shall not make any grant under this section for the purpose of es-

tablishing, enhancing, or operating any transitional housing for a sexually dangerous person in or near a location where minors or other vulnerable persons are likely to come into contact with that person.

(c) Eligibility**(1) In general**

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a jurisdiction shall, before the expiration of the compliance period—

(A) have established a civil commitment program for sexually dangerous persons that is consistent with guidelines issued by the Attorney General; or

(B) submit a plan for the establishment of such a program.

(2) Compliance period

The compliance period referred to in paragraph (1) expires on the date that is 2 years after July 27, 2006. However, the Attorney General may, on a case-by-case basis, extend the compliance period that applies to a jurisdiction if the Attorney General considers such an extension to be appropriate.

(3) Release notice

(A) Each civil commitment program for which funding is required under this section shall require the issuance of timely notice to a State official responsible for considering whether to pursue civil commitment proceedings upon the impending release of any person incarcerated by the State who—

(i) has been convicted of a sexually violent offense; or

(ii) has been deemed by the State to be at high risk for recommitting any sexual offense against a minor.

(B) The program shall further require that upon receiving notice under subparagraph (A), the State official shall consider whether or not to pursue a civil commitment proceeding, or any equivalent proceeding required under State law.

(d) Attorney General reports

Not later than January 31 of each year, beginning with 2008, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the progress of jurisdictions in implementing this section and the rate of sexually violent offenses for each jurisdiction.

(e) Definitions

As used in this section:

(1) The term “civil commitment program” means a program that involves—

(A) secure civil confinement, including appropriate control, care, and treatment during such confinement; and

(B) appropriate supervision, care, and treatment for individuals released following such confinement.

(2) The term “sexually dangerous person” means a person suffering from a serious mental illness, abnormality, or disorder, as a result of which the individual would have seri-