



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ted O'Brien

## Senator O'Brien fixes loophole in sex offender registry

TED O'BRIEN June 28, 2013

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The screenshot shows the DCJS website header with the logo and tagline "Criminal Justice Services ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AND IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE". Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "Missing Persons", "Sex Offenders", "Statistics", "Translate", and "Find us on Facebook". The main content area is titled "Search Public Registry of Sex Offenders" and includes the instruction "Choose ONE Field to Search the Subdirectory by:". There are three search fields: "Last Name" (a text input field), "County" (a dropdown menu), and "Zip Code" (a text input field).

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** – Last week, Senator Ted O'Brien's bill making it a felony for a convicted sex offender to provide a false address or other identifying information to law enforcement for the sex offender registry was passed. The bill received unanimous support in the New York State Senate.

"Ensuring that the state's sex offender registry contains accurate information is vital to providing parents, school officials and law enforcement with the tools they need to keep our children safe," Senator O'Brien said. "Convicted sex offenders who try to evade the law by

providing false contact information endanger the communities they live in and should be held fully accountable for their actions. My bill reinforces the importance of keeping track of criminals who prey on children and allows the state to more effectively protect its residents."

The bill was inspired by a Rochester case where an undeliverable renewal notice alerted police to a convicted child rapist's false filing. The Monroe County prosecutor was only able to charge the individual, who had been classified at the highest risk rating possible upon his release, with falsifying business records and offering a false instrument for filing. These fraud-related misdemeanors are meant to apply to much less dangerous situations.

This bill currently awaits action from the State Assembly.

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*Sen. O'Brien represents the 55th district in the Senate, which is made up of the eastern half of Monroe County and the western half of Ontario County, including much of the city of Rochester.*

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