

Lindbeck said while the Attorney General's office respects the role of the judiciary, she feels the numbers reflect a need to change the system altogether.

"I think that is why we are fighting so hard for legislation to be passed," Lindbeck said. "Our community has the right to know who is living around them."

The Adam Walsh Act, also known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, is a federal law designed to set uniform requirements for states to track sex offenders and regulate how the public is notified about their existence.

Past legislation written to put the state in line with the Adam Walsh Act has failed on Smith Hill. States that have not complied with the federal law have lost out on federal funding in the past few years.

Carolyn Atwell-Davis, Director of Legislative Affairs with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said the act is important in creating a "seamless nationwide registry."

"There needs to be consistency in how these offenders are classified," Atwell-Davis said. "For uniformity we support using the offense-based system that is in the Adam Walsh act."

Locally, regular critics include the Rhode Island ACLU, which has testified at legislative hearings that stricter reporting requirements required by the act would give the public a false sense of security.