WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1998

ENROLLED
Committee Substitute for
SENATE BILL NO. _____158

(By Senators Templin, Mr. Busident, on Buckalen, By Request of the Executive)

PASSED <u>March 14,</u> 1998 In Effect <u>90 Augs from</u> Passage

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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

Senate Bill No. 158

(By Senators Tomblin, Mr. President, and Buckalew, By Request of the Executive)

[Passed March 14, 1998; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend article eight-f, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto three new sections, designated sections one-a, two-a and two-b; to amend and reenact sections two, three, four, five, seven, eight, nine and ten of said article; and to amend and reenact section two, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of said code, all relating to the registration of sex offenders; legislative intent; expansion of persons required to be registered; notification requirements for sex offenders who leave prison or move in or out of the state; changing the definition of mental abnormality; establishment of a judicial process to determine whether a

person is a sexually violent person; establishment of sex offender registration advisory board; requiring registration within ten days of change in address; expansion of the duration certain persons must register; notification distribution; creation of disclosure exemptions; criminal penalties for failing to provide information and registering; parole officers providing information to the state police; and establishment of a verification process.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article eight-f, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto three new sections, designated sections one-a, two-a and two-b; that sections two, three, four, five, seven, eight, nine and ten of said article be amended and reenacted; and that section two, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

CHAPTER 61. CRIMES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT.

ARTICLE 8F. SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION ACT.

§61-8F-1a. Intent.

- 1 It is the intent of this article to provide a law-enforce-
- 2 ment tool to protect the public from child molesters and
- 3 violent sexual offenders by registration of persons who
- 4 have demonstrated by their criminal conduct that they
- 5 may constitute a continuing threat to the public safety.

§61-8F-2. Registration.

- 1 (a) Any person who has been convicted of a violation of
- 2 the provisions of article eight-b, eight-c, or sections five
- and six, article eight-d of this chapter, or of section
- 4 fourteen, article two, or of sections twelve and thirteen,
- 5 article eight of this chapter, or of a felony violation
- 6 involving a minor of section six or seven, article eight,
- 7 chapter sixty-one of this code, or of a similar provision in
- 8 another state, federal or military jurisdiction shall be

- required to be registered as set forth in this article. Any
- person who has been convicted of an attempt to commit 10
- 11 any of the offenses set forth in this section shall also be
- 12 required to register as set forth in this article.
- 13 (b) On the date that any person convicted of any of the
- 14 crimes listed herein, including those persons continuing
- 15 under some post conviction supervisory status for crimes
- 16 committed prior to the date of this law, is released, is
- 17 granted probation, is granted a suspended sentence, is
- released on parole, probation, home detention, work 18
- 19 release or any other release from incarceration, the
- commissioner of corrections, regional jail administrator or 20
- city or sheriff operating a jail which releases such person 21
- 22 and any parole or probation officer who releases such
- person or supervises such person following the release 23
- 24 shall obtain all information required by this subsection
- prior to the release of the person, inform the person that 25
- 26 he or she must register within three days of release with
- 27the state police detachment in the county where he or she
- 28 shall reside, and shall send written notice of the release of
- 29 the person to the state police within three days of receiv-
- ing the information. The notice shall include: 30
- 31 (1) The full name of the person;
- 32 (2) The address where the person shall reside;
- 33 (3) The person's social security number;
- 34 (4) A recent photograph of the person;
- (5) A brief description of the crime for which the person 35
- was convicted; 36
- 37 (6) Fingerprints; and
- 38 (7) For any person determined to be a sexually violent
- 39 predator, the notice shall also include:
- 40 (i) Identifying factors, including physical characteristics;
- 41 (ii) History of the offense; and

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42 (iii) Documentation of any treatment received for the 43 mental abnormality or personality disorder.

44 Persons who have been convicted for any of the offenses contained in subsection (a) of this section and released 45 46 from incarceration or correctional supervision shall be required to register as provided herein if that person is 47 48 arrested on any new criminal charge within a period of ten years from release from correctional supervision of the 49 50 original sexual offense. The arresting agency shall inform 51 the person of his or her duty to register and shall send 52 written notice of the person's arrest and of this notification to the state police. 53

- (c) At the time the person is convicted of the crimes set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the person shall sign in open court, a statement acknowledging that he or she understands the requirements imposed by this article. The court shall inform the person so convicted of the requirements to register imposed by this article and shall further satisfy itself by interrogation of the defendant or his or her counsel that the defendant has received notice of the provisions of this article and that the defendant understands such provisions. Such statement, when signed and witnessed shall constitute prima facie evidence that the person had knowledge of the requirements of this article.
- (d) When a person required to register under this article is released following incarceration, the commissioner of corrections, the regional jail supervisor or the city or sheriff or any other person supervising the operation of the place of confinement shall, within three days, inform the state police of such release and provide such further information as is required by this article.
- 73 (e) The state police shall maintain a central registry of 74 all persons who register under this article and shall release 75 information only as provided in this article. The informa-76 tion required to be made public by the state police by 77 subdivision (2), subsection (b), section five of this article

- 78 shall be accessible through the internet.
- 79 (f) For the purposes of this article, sexually violent 80 offenses shall be defined as any criminal offenses set forth 81 in article eight-b of this chapter which include forcible 82 compulsion, bodily injury or the use of deadly weapons.
- (g) The term "sexually violent predator" means a person
 who has been convicted of a sexually violent offense and
 who suffers from a mental abnormality or personality
- 86 disorder that makes the person likely to engage in preda-
- 87 tory sexually violent offenses.
- 88 (h) The term "mental abnormality" means a congenital
- 89 or acquired condition of a person that affects the emo-
- 90 tional or volitional capacity of the person in a manner that
- 91 predisposes that person to the commission of criminal
- 92 sexual acts to a degree that makes the person a menace to
- 93 the health and safety of other persons.
- 94 (i) The term "predatory act" means an act directed at a
- 95 stranger or at a person with whom a relationship has been
- 96 established or promoted for the primary purpose of
- 97 victimization.

§61-8F-2a. Court determination of sexually violent predator.

- 1 (a) The circuit court that has sentenced a person for
- 2 having committed a sexually violent offense shall make a
- 3 determination whether:
- 4 (1) A person is a sexually violent predator; or
- 5 (2) A person is no longer a sexually violent predator.
- 6 (b) A hearing to make a determination as provided for in
- 7 subsection (a) of this section is a summary proceeding,
- 8 triable before the court without a jury.
- 9 (c) A proceeding seeking to establish that a person is a
- 10 sexually violent predator is initiated by the filing of a
- 11 written information by the prosecuting attorney. The
- 12 information shall describe the record of the judgment of

- 13 the court on the person's conviction of a sexually violent
- 14 offense, and shall set forth a short and plain statement of
- 15 the prosecutor's claim that the person suffers from a
- 16 mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes the
- 17 person likely to engage in predatory sexually violent
- 18 offenses.

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- 19 (d) A proceeding seeking to establish that a person is no
 - longer a sexually violent predator is initiated by the filing
- 21 of a petition by the person who has been determined to be
- 22 a sexually violent predator.
- 23 (e) Prior to making a determination pursuant to the
- 24 provisions of this section, the sentencing court may order
- 25 a psychiatric or other clinical examination and, after such
- 26 examination, may further order a period of observation in
- 27 an appropriate facility within this state designated by the
- 28 court after consultation with the director of the division
- 29 of health.
- 30 (f) Prior to making a determination pursuant to the
- 31 provisions of this section, the sentencing court shall
- 32 request and receive a report by the board established
- 33 pursuant to section two-b of this article. The report shall
- 34 set forth the findings and recommendation of the board on
- 35 the issue of whether the person is a sexually violent
- 36 predator.
- 37 (g) At a hearing to determine whether a person is a
- 38 sexually violent predator, the person shall be present and
- 39 shall have the right to be represented by counsel and
- 40 introduce evidence and cross-examine witnesses. The
- 41 offender shall have access to a summary of the medical
- 42 evidence to be presented by the state. The offender shall
- 43 have the right to an examination by an independent
- 44 expert of his choice and testimony from such expert as a
- 45 medical witness on his behalf. At the termination of such
- 46 hearing the court shall make a finding of fact upon a
- 47 preponderance of the evidence as to whether the person is
- Trepoliticiance of the evidence as to whether the perso
- 48 a sexually violent predator.

(h) If a person is determined by the circuit court to be a sexually violent predator, the clerk of the court shall forward a copy of the order to the state police in the manner prescribed by the superintendent of state police in procedural rules promulgated in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

61-8F-2b.

§23-4-2b. Creation of sex offender registration advisory board.

- 1 (a) There is hereby created within the department of 2 military affairs and public safety a sex offender registration advisory board consisting of a minimum of five 3 members appointed by the secretary of the department of 4 military affairs and public safety. At least two of the 5 members shall be experts in the field of the behavior and treatment of sexual offenders, and each shall be a physi-8 cian, psychologist or social worker in the employ of this state appointed by the secretary in consultation with the director of the division of health. The remaining members 10 shall be victims rights advocates and representatives of 11 12 law-enforcement agencies. Members of the board shall be 13 reimbursed their reasonable expenses pursuant to the rules promulgated by the department of administration 14 for the reimbursement of expenses of state officials and 15 employees, and shall receive no other compensation for 16 their services. The board shall utilize the staff of the 17 division or office within the department of military affairs 18 and public safety designated by the secretary thereof in 19 20 carrying out its duties and responsibilities as set forth in 21 this article.
- (b) The board shall assist the circuit courts of this state
 in determining whether persons convicted of sexually
 violent offenses are sexually violent predators.

§61-8F-3. Change of address.

When any person required to register under this article changes his or her residence or address, he or she shall,



- 3 within ten days, inform the West Virginia state police of
- 4 his or her new address in the manner prescribed by the
- 5 superintendent of state police in procedural rules promul-
- gated in accordance with the provisions of article three,
- 7 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

§61-8F-4. Duration.

- 1 (a) A person required to register under terms of this
- 2 article shall continue to comply with this section, except
- 3 during ensuing periods of incarceration, until:
- 4 (1) Ten years have elapsed since the person was released
- 5 from prison or jail, or from the time the person was placed
- 6 upon probation, parole or supervised release; or
- 7 (2) For the life of that person if that person: (A) Has one
- 8 or more prior convictions for any qualifying offense
- 9 described in this article; or (B) has been convicted of a
- sexually violent offense; or (C) has been determined to be
- 11 a sexually violent predator as defined above.
- 12 (b) A person whose conviction is overturned for the
- 13 offense which required them to register under this article
- 14 shall, upon petition to the court, have their name removed
- 15 from the registry.

§61-8F-5. Distribution and disclosure of information; community information programs by prosecuting attorney and state police; petition to circuit court.

- 1 (a) Within five working days after receiving any notifi-
- 2 cation as described in this article, the state police shall
- 3 distribute a copy of the notification statement to:
- 4 (1) The supervisor of each county and municipal law-
- 5 enforcement office in the city and county where the person
- 6 will reside;
- 7 (2) The county superintendent of schools where the
- 8 person will reside;

- 9 (3) The child protective services office charged with 10 investigating allegations of child abuse or neglect in the 11 county where the person will reside:
- 12 (4) All community organizations or religious organiza-13 tions which regularly provide services to youths in the 14 county where the person will reside;
- 15 (5) Individuals and organizations which provide day 16 care services for youths or day care, residential or respite 17 care, or other supportive services for incapacitated, infirm 18 or mentally incapacitated or infirm persons in the county 19 where the registered person will reside; and
- 20 (6) The federal bureau of investigation (FBI).
- 21 (b) Information concerning persons whose names are 22 contained on the list of the sexual offender registry shall 23 be disseminated only in the following manner, and not be 24 subject to the requirements of the West Virginia freedom 25 of information act of this code:
- 26 (1) When a person has been determined to be a sexually 27 violent predator under terms of section two-a of this 28 article, the state police shall notify the prosecuting 29 attorney of the county in which the person intends to 30 reside. The prosecuting attorney shall in cooperation with 31 the state police conduct a community notification pro-32 gram which shall include publication of the offender's 33 name and place of residence, and information concerning 34 the legal rights and obligations of both the offender and 35 the community. The prosecuting attorney and state police 36 may conduct a community notification program in the 37 county of residence of any person who is required to register for life under the terms of subdivision (2), section 38 39 four of this article. Community notification may be repeated when determined appropriate by the prosecuting 40 41 attorney;
- 42 (2) The state police shall maintain and make available to 43 the public at least quarterly the list of all persons who are

- 44 required to register for life according to the terms of
- 45 subdivision (2), section four of this article. The method of
- 46 publication and access to this list shall be determined by
- 47 the superintendent; and
- 48 (3) A resident of a county may petition the circuit court
- 49 for an order requiring the state police to release informa-
- 50 tion about persons residing in that county who are re-
- 51 quired to register under section two of this article. The
- 52 court shall determine whether information contained on
- 53 the list and relevant to public safety outweighs the
- 54 importance of confidentiality, and if the court orders
- 55 information to be released, it may further order limita-
- 56 tions upon secondary dissemination by the resident
- 57 seeking the information.
- 58 In no event shall information concerning the identity of
- 59 a victim of an offense requiring registration be released.
- 60 (c) The state police may furnish information and docu-
- 61 mentation required in connection with the registration to
- 62 authorized law-enforcement and governmental agencies
- 63 of the United States and its territories, of foreign coun-
- 64 tries duly authorized to receive the same, of other states
- 65 within the United States and of the state of West Virginia
- 66 upon proper request stating that the records will be used
- 67 solely for law-enforcement related purposes. The state
- 68 police may disclose information collected under this
- 69 article to federal, state and local governmental agencies
- 70 responsible for conducting pre-employment checks.
- 71 (d) An elected public official, public employee or public
- 72 agency is immune from civil liability for damages arising
- 73 out of any action relating to the provisions of this section
- 74 except when the official, employee or agency acted with
- 75 gross negligence or in bad faith.

§61-8F-7. Information shall be released when person moves out of state.

1 A person who is required to register pursuant to the

- 2 provisions of this article, who intends to move to another
- state or country shall at least ten days prior to such move 3
- 4 notify the state police of his or her intent to move and of
- the location to which he or she intends to move, or if that
- 6 person is incarcerated he or she shall notify correctional
- officials of his or her intent to reside in some other state or 7
- country upon his or her release, and of the location to
- 9 which he or she intends to move. Upon such notification,
- 10 the state police shall notify law-enforcement officials of
- 11 the jurisdiction where the person indicates he or she
- 12 intends to reside of the information provided by the
- person under the provisions of this article. 13

§61-8F-8. Failure to register; penalty.

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- (a) Except as outlined below, any person required to 1
 - register under this article who knowingly provides false
- identity or address information or who refuses to provide
- such accurate information when so required by terms of
- 5 this article, or who knowingly fails to register or know-
- ingly fails to provide a change of address as required by 6
- 7 this article, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon convic-
- tion thereof, shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty 8
- dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned 9 in the county jail not more than one year, or both fined 10
- and imprisoned: Provided, That each time such person
- 11
- changes residence and fails to register, such failure shall 12
- constitute a separate offense. 13
- (b) Any person required to register under this article 14
- who is convicted of a second or subsequent offense of 15
- failing to register or provide a change of address as 16
- required, or any person who has one or more prior convic-17
- tions for qualifying sexual offenses under this article and 18
- who fails to register or has any conviction for a sexually 19
- violent offense and who fails to register is guilty of a 20
- felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned 21
- 22in a state penal facility for not less than one year nor more
- 23 than five years.

- 24 (c) Any person required to register as a sexual predator 25 as defined by section two of this article, who fails to 26 register or provide a change of address as required by this 27 article is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, 28 shall, for a first offense, be imprisoned in a state correc-29 tional facility not less than two years nor more than ten years, and for a second or subsequent offense, be impris-30 31 oned in a state correctional facility not less than five years 32 nor more than twenty years.
- (d) In addition to any other penalty specified for failure 33 to register under this article, any person under the super-34 vision of a probation officer, parole officer or any other 35 sanction short of confinement in jail or prison, who 36 37 knowingly refuses to register, or who knowingly gives false information concerning his or her residence, or who 38 knowingly fails to provide a change of address as required 39 by this article, shall be subject to immediate revocation of 40 probation or parole and returned to confinement for the 41 remainder of any suspended or unserved portion of his or 42 43 her original sentence.

§61-8F-9. Registration of out-of-state offenders.

- (a) When any probation or parole officer accepts super-1 2 vision of and has legal authority over any person required 3 to register under this article from another state under the 4 terms and conditions of the uniform act for out-of-state parolee supervision established under article six, chapter 5 twenty-eight of this code, such officer shall give the 6 person written notice of the registration requirements of this section and obtain a signed statement from the person 8
- required to register acknowledging the receipt of the notice. The officer shall obtain and submit to the state 10
- police, the identical information required of persons 11
- 12 convicted in this state under subsection (b), section two of
- 13 this article.
- 14 (b) Any person:

- 15 (1) Who resides in another state;
- 16 (2) Who is employed, carries on a vocation or is a student
- 17 in this state; and
- 18 (3) Who is required by the state in which he or she
- 19 resides to register in that state under provisions of the law
- 20 of that state that are similar to the provisions of this
- 21 article, shall register in this state and otherwise comply
- 22 with the provisions of this article.

§61-8F-10. Address verification.

- 1 The state police shall verify addresses of those persons
- 2 registered as sexually violent predators every ninety days
- 3 and all other registered persons once a year. The state
- 4 police may require registrants to periodically submit to
- 5 new fingerprints and photographs as part of the verifica-
- 6 tion process. The method of verification shall be in
- 7 accordance with internal management rules and regula-
- 8 tions pertaining thereto promulgated by the superinten-
- 9 dent under authority of section twenty-five, article two,
- 10 chapter fifteen of this code.

CHAPTER 62. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

ARTICLE 12. PROBATION AND PAROLE.

§62-12-2. Eligibility for probation.

- 1 (a) All persons who are found guilty of or plead guilty to
- 2 any felony, the maximum penalty for which is less than
- 3 life imprisonment, and all persons who are found guilty of
- 4 or plead guilty to any misdemeanor, shall be eligible for
- 5 probation, notwithstanding the provisions of sections
- 6 eighteen and nineteen, article eleven, chapter sixty-one of
- 7 this code.
- 8 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section to the
- 9 contrary notwithstanding, any person who commits or
- 10 attempts to commit a felony with the use, presentment or
- 11 brandishing of a firearm shall be ineligible for probation.
- 12 Nothing in this section shall apply to an accessory before

- the fact or a principal in the second degree who has been 13
- convicted as if he or she were a principal in the first 14
- degree if, in the commission of or in the attempted com-15
- mission of the felony, only the principal in the first degree 16
- used, presented or brandished a firearm. 17
- (c) (1) The existence of any fact which would make any 18
- person ineligible for probation under subsection (b) of this 19
- section because of the commission or attempted commis-20
- sion of a felony with the use, presentment or brandishing 21
- of a firearm shall not be applicable unless such fact is 22
- clearly stated and included in the indictment or present-23
- ment by which such person is charged and is either: (i) 24
- Found by the court upon a plea of guilty or nolo conten-25
- dere; or (ii) found by the jury, if the matter be tried before 26
- a jury, upon submitting to such jury a special interroga-27
- tory for such purpose; or (iii) found by the court, if the 28
- matter be tried by the court, without a jury. 29
- 30 (2) The amendments to this subsection adopted in the
- year one thousand nine hundred eighty-one: 31
- 32(A) Shall apply to all applicable offenses occurring on or
- after the first day of August of that year; 33
- (B) Shall apply with respect to the contents of any 34
- indictment or presentment returned on or after the first 35
- day of August of that year irrespective of when the offense 36
- 37 occurred:
- (C) Shall apply with respect to the submission of a 38
- special interrogatory to the jury and the finding to be 39
- made thereon in any case submitted to such jury on or 40
- after the first day of August of that year or to the requisite 41
- findings of the court upon a plea of guilty or in any case 42
- 43 tried without a jury: Provided, That the state shall give
- notice in writing of its intent to seek such finding by the 44
- jury or court, as the case may be, which notice shall state 45
- with particularity the grounds upon which such finding 46
- shall be sought as fully as such grounds are otherwise 47

- 48 required to be stated in an indictment, unless the grounds
- 49 therefor are alleged in the indictment or presentment upon
- 50 which the matter is being tried;
- 51 (D) Shall not apply with respect to cases not affected by
- 52 such amendment and in such cases the prior provisions of
- this section shall apply and be construed without refer-53
- 54 ence to such amendment; and
- 55 Insofar as such amendments relate to mandatory
- 56 sentences without probation, all such matters requiring
- 57 such sentence shall be proved beyond a reasonable doubt
- 58 in all cases tried by the jury or the court.
- 59 (d) For the purpose of this section, the term "firearm"
- 60 shall mean any instrument which will, or is designed to, or
- 61 may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the
- 62 action of an explosive, gunpowder, or any other similar
- 63 means.

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- 64 (e) In the case of any person who has been found guilty
- of, or pleaded guilty to, a felony or misdemeanor under the 66 provisions of section twelve or twenty-four, article eight,
- chapter sixty-one of this code, or under the provisions of 67
- article eight-c or eight-b of said chapter, such person shall 68
- only be eligible for probation after undergoing a physical, 69
- mental and psychiatric study and diagnosis which shall 70
- 71include an on-going treatment plan requiring active
- 72participation in sexual abuse counseling at a mental
- 73health facility or through some other approved program:
- Provided, That nothing disclosed by the person during 74
- such study or diagnosis shall be made available to any 75
- law-enforcement agency, or other party without that 76
- 77person's consent, or admissible in any court of this state,
- unless such information disclosed shall indicate the 78
- 79 intention or plans of the probationer to do harm to any
- person, animal, institution or property, in which case such 80
- 81 information may be released only to such persons as might
- 82 be necessary for protection of the said person, animal,
- 83 institution or property.

- 84 (f) Any person who has been convicted of a violation of
- 85 the provisions of article eight-b, eight-c or sections five
- 86 and six, article eight-d, chapter sixty-one of this code, or
- 87 of section fourteen, article two, or of sections twelve and
- 88 thirteen, article eight, chapter sixty-one of this code, or of
- 89 a felony violation involving a minor of section six or
- 90 seven, article eight, chapter sixty-one of this code, or of a
- 91 similar provision in another jurisdiction shall be required
- 92 to be registered upon release on probation. Any person
- 93 who has been convicted of an attempt to commit any of
- 94 the offenses set forth in this subsection shall also be
- 95 registered upon release on probation.
- 96 (g) The probation officer shall within three days of
- 97 release of the offender, send written notice to the state
- 98 police of the release of the offender. The notice shall
- 99 include:
- 100 (1) The full name of the person;
- 101 (2) The address where the person shall reside;
- 102 (3) The person's social security number;
- 103 (4) A recent photograph of the person;
- 104 (5) A brief description of the crime for which the person
- 105 was convicted;
- 106 (6) Fingerprints; and
- 107 (7) For any person determined to be a sexually violent
- 108 predator as defined in section two, article eight-f, chapter
- 109 sixty-one of this code, the notice shall also include:
- (i) Identifying factors, including physical characteristics;
- 111 (ii) History of the offense; and
- 112 (iii) Documentation of any treatment received for the
- 113 mental abnormality or personality disorder.

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.
Chairphan Senate Committee
Mik Tantasi. Chairman House Committee
Originated in the Senate.
In effect ninety days from passage. Clerk of the Senate
Clerk of the House of Delegates Of Ray Jombeli
President of the Senate Speaker House of Delegates
The within
day of

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date_\