

1 **2022 NYSAC Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #7**  
4

5 **Resolution Encouraging the State Legislature and Governor to Enact**  
6 **Legislation to Require Reporting of Sex Offenders in Short Term Rentals**  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, *Megan's Law* is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey  
9 girl raped and killed by a known registered sex offender who had moved across the  
10 street from the family without their knowledge; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, in the wake of the tragedy, the Kankas sought to have local communities  
13 warned about sex offenders in the area; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, all states now have a form of *Megan's Law*; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, New York State's version of *Megan's Law*, named The Sex Offender  
18 Registration Act (SORA), was signed by Governor Pataki in July 1995; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, in May 1996, Congress amended the Violent Crime Control and Law  
21 Enforcement Act of 1994 to require the release of relevant information to protect the  
22 public from sexually violent offenders; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, on May 17, 1996, President Clinton signed this federal version of *Megan's*  
25 *Law*, which mandated uniform sex offender registration in all 50 states, providing for  
26 community notification by allowing states to disclose information about registered sex  
27 offenders; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, the State of New York strengthened NY's Megan's Law to require  
30 Level 1 offenders (low risk) to register for 20 years, unless they have a designation (e.g.  
31 sexual predator, sexually violent offender, or predicate sex offender), in which case they  
32 must register for life, and Level 2 offenders (moderate risk) and Level 3 offenders (high  
33 risk) must register for life; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, over the past five years, the popularity of short-term rentals (STRs), like  
36 AirBNB, VRBO, and other STR platforms has dramatically increased across the nation  
37 and state; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, many states, including Texas and Florida, are considering legislation to  
40 authorize municipalities to enact local laws to ban sex offenders or restrict sex offender  
41 activity with respect to STRs; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, state law governing sexual predators from using STRs has not moved fast  
44 enough with the change in how people decide to vacation; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, parents have the right to know who their neighbors are and should feel  
47 comfortable letting their children play safely outdoors on their own property.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
2 Counties (NYSAC) encourages the Governor and State Legislature to enact legislation  
3 that would:

- Require any registered sex offender staying at a short-term rental in a residential neighborhood to inform the STR host owner, and/or managing company 48 hours before arriving on the premises.
  - The STR host, owner and/or managing company should be required to inform local police, as well as any neighbor within 1,000 feet of that STR
  - Failure to do so would result in immediate imprisonment for the registered offender and a \$10,000 fine, respectively for the STR host, owner, and/or managing company.
- Prohibit sex offenders from acting as hosts, property managers, or owners of str.
- Prohibit sex offenders from being an on-site employee of the STR.
- Require this information to be included as part of the state’s sex offender registry or local registry.

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5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
6 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
9 the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, and all others  
10 deemed necessary and proper.