



Middlesex Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff Koutoujian testifies in support of S.730 - - Legislation targeting child sexual predators

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary Tuesday, May 7, in favor of legislation targeting child sexual predators.

“There is nothing more important than protecting our children and ensuring we give our law enforcement agencies the necessary tools to pursue these criminals as aggressively as possible,” said Koutoujian.

The legislation – *An Act regarding asset forfeiture* – filed by Senator Barry Finegold, was first proposed by Sheriff Koutoujian. Modeled on existing state forfeiture laws for drug and human trafficking cases, the legislation would allow state and county prosecutors to petition the court for forfeiture of specific property tied to child pornography and enticement cases.

With the court’s permission, items used for the production, storage or dissemination of child pornography, such as cameras and computers, or of items used in the enticement of minors, such as cell phones and motor vehicles, could be seized and disposed of at the conclusion of cases.

Under the legislation, the funds generated through asset forfeiture would go towards programs including Internet safety education, victim rehabilitation and therapy and the purchase of technical equipment for law enforcement agencies. It could also be used to defray the costs of protracted investigations.

“Crime evolves and so must our laws,” said Sheriff Koutoujian. “I believe passage of this legislation can help law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute those who prey on our children.”

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