EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/10/05
HB 49

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
# HB 49: Revisions to the Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act

## Background

Montana's Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act is designed to protect the public from sexual and violent offenders by requiring offenders to register with local law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction where they reside. Information about these offenders is then made available to the public. Montana's registration law for sex offenders has been in place since 1989, and for violent offenders since 1995. This bill revises the Act to clarify administrative issues that have arisen and to better serve the public.

## Proposed Amendments

HB 49 makes the following revisions to the Registration Act:

- **Section 1**: requires registration for out-of-state or federal offenders designated as sexual offenders by the laws of another state or the federal government.
- **Section 2**: clarifies registration procedures. All offenders, except those who register with the Department of Corrections upon release from confinement, must register with the appropriate local law enforcement agency.
- **Section 3**: clarifies the change of address requirement. Offenders who registered initially with the Department of Corrections must notify that department of any change in address.
- **Section 4**: clarifies that violent offenders must petition the sentencing court or the district court where the offender resides for relief from the duty to register.
- **Section 6**: allows Montana to recognize risk level designations given by another state or the federal government and to post that information accordingly.

## Purpose

These changes will fix administrative problems that have arisen in implementing the provisions of the Act. Under HB 49, out-of-state and federal sexual offenders who move to Montana will be treated in the same manner as Montana offenders, enhancing public protection from those offenders.

2005 Legislature
January 10, 2005