

Menu



WATCH LIVE

Quick links...

ADVERTISEMENT

[NEIGHBORHOODS](#) > [STATE CAPITOL](#)



Bill to create child abuse offenders registry heads to the Michigan House



Wyatt's Law creates a child abuse offenders registry. After passing in the Michigan Senate it moves on to the House.



By: [Elle Meyers](#)

Posted at 6:11 PM, May 11, 2021 and last updated 10:29 PM, May 11, 2021

LANSING, Mich. — Parents don't always know just who is caring for or spending time with their children.

In 2013, Erica Hammell discovered her 1-year-old son, Wyatt, was being abused by her ex-husband's girlfriend at the time. She had her suspicions about the woman but did not have access to concrete evidence until Wyatt was rushed to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit with a massive brain hemorrhage.



FOX 47 News, 2021

medical attention that Hammell discovered the woman, Rachel Edwards already had prior convictions for child abuse.

RELATED

- "Wyatt's Law," online child abuse registry bill, passes through Senate
- [Wyatt's Law: The fight for an online child abuse registry](#)

Recent Stories from fox47news.com

SPONSORED

**YOUR NEAREST
STAPLES
CONNECT**

3003 East Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI

[FIND A STORE](#)

 Staples
Connect



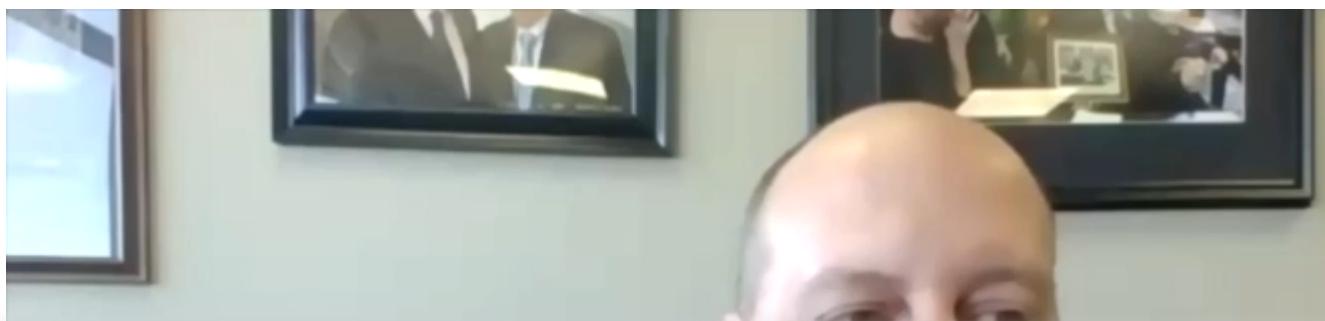
COMING NEXT

Top Videos: The Plant Professionals - 5/11/21

“I believe strongly that parents have a right to know if someone who is living with their children or if someone’s taking care of their children that they’ve had a history of child abuse,” said State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) who created new legislation called Wyatt’s Law alongside his brother Rep. Kevin Hertel (D-18).



The law which passed the Michigan Senate in late April would create a database much like the sex offenders registry, maintained by the Michigan State Police. The database would log the information of people convicted of child abuse and make it more accessible to the community.



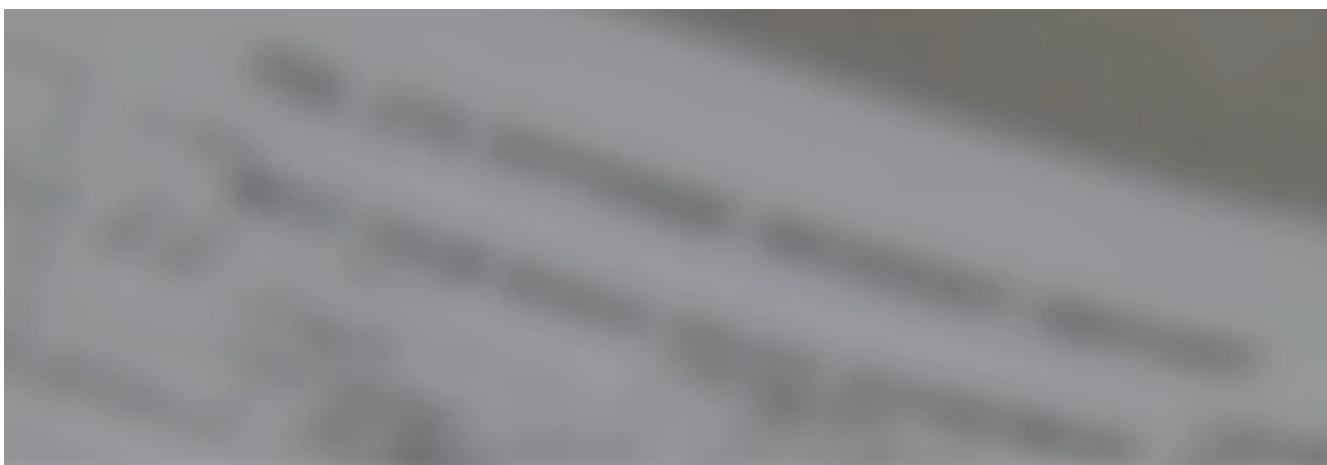


"What this bill does is it makes that information more readily accessible. We're not asking for any information that isn't already in the public record, but under current law can be very hard for parents to find," Hertel Jr. said. "We're trying to put all that in one place so that people have access to it and know that their kids are safe."

Rep. Kevin Hertel noted that Hammell's story is, unfortunately, not unique.

"Unfortunately these stories have been told many, many times across our state. We see them play out in the media frequently and so while it's important to me as a parent I think it is also important for all parents across our state," he said.

The database would include information like the person's legal name and aliases, their date of birth, their municipality of residence, and a summary of their previous convictions.





“The information that is available is more limited than the sex offender registry, we’re not trying to put another restriction on people. We’re just trying to give parents knowledge,” Hertel Jr. said.

The new legislation was greeted by the Senate with bipartisan support and is headed to the House for further discussion.

“[Wyatt] is amazing because of the challenges that he’s overcome but he shouldn’t have had to overcome those challenges,” he said. “This won’t prevent all acts of child abuse but it certainly will help give parents some peace of mind.”

ADVERTISEMENT



Despite the bill's good intentions Matt Gillard who serves as the president and CEO of Michigan's Children, an advocacy group in Lansing, says Wyatt's law doesn't accomplish the goals lawmakers want to reach.



"Registries are not prevention and have not proven to be preventative in any way shape or form. So we really try to encourage the legislature to really look at ways to prioritize preventing abuse and neglect," he said.

Gillard explained that legislator's attention to child abuse in Michigan is a good thing but said he wants to see politicians talk with advocacy groups.

"I think it's a great first start but I would encourage them to dig in deeper, to engage with organizations like ours and others out there who are involved in this issue on a regular basis," he said.

Want to see more local news? Visit the [FOX47News Website](#).

Stay in touch with us anytime, anywhere.

Sign up for [newsletters emailed to your inbox](#).

Select from these options: Breaking News, Severe Weather, School Closings, Daily Headlines, and Daily Forecasts.

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

E-mail

Submit

CURATION BY



State recognizes often overlooked correctional officers this week



Sponsored

Top 6 Cards If You Have Excellent Credit

NerdWallet



Sponsored

[Pics] Meet Former Vice President Al Gore's New Wife

<https://lifeexact.com/>



Good Samaritan jumps into bay to rescue infant ejected from vehicle during crash



sponsored by **Noracora**
Limited time offer – Hurry up!



Limited time offer – Hurry up!



Limited time offer – Hurry up!



Limited time offer – Hurry up!



Sponsored

Photos of Queen Elizabeth in Her Heyday

Post Fun



Sponsored

Drones Captures Photos No One Was Supposed to See

BetterBe

Thousands of new Ford pickups parked at Kentucky Speedway, can't be sold



Berlin Raceway in need of community votes with \$50,000 on the line

Sponsored

Read This Before You Renew Amazon Prime Again

Capital One Shopping

Sponsored

Don't leave your garden unprotected this year!

Roundup® Brand

Sponsored

[Gallery] Always Place A Rubber Band On Door Knob When Alone, Here's Why

HealthyGem

Sam Sinicropi started at Lansing schools as a custodian. He's retiring as superintendent.

Whitmer won't discuss trip after reported use of private jet

Sponsored

[Photos] Sandra Bullock's Son Finally Confirms the Rumors

Life Indigo

Sponsored

Downsizing? 10 Things Kids Don't Want To Inherit!

Forbes

FBI now investigating Andrew Brown, Jr. shooting; autopsy shows police shot him 5 times

Norman Lloyd, Dr. Auschlander from 'St. Elsewhere,' reportedly passes away at 106

SmartAsset

Sponsored

Quick Poll! Do You Approve of President Biden?

Paid for by the Democratic Governors Association

Sponsored

[Photos] Shiloh Jolie-Pitt Seems To Be Done With Her Tomboy Phase

The Primary Market

CDC: Anxiety to blame for dozens of vaccine reactions at 5 mass vaccination sites

Michigan receives \$312M payment from tobacco industry settlement



State Capitol
Neighborhood Reporter
Elle Meyers

ADVERTISEMENT



[Neighborhood News](#) [Weather](#) [Rebound](#) [Jobs at FOX 47](#)
[Support](#)



Scripps Local Media
© 2021 Scripps Media,
Inc

[Sitemap](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Privacy Center](#)
[Journalism Ethics Guidelines](#) [Terms of Use](#) [EEO](#) [Careers](#)
[FCC Public File](#) [FCC Public File Contact](#) [FCC Application](#)
[Accessibility Statement](#) [Closed Captioning](#) [Contact](#)

