

**STATEMENT TO**  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2829**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Assemblyman JOHNSON )

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Assembly Bill No. 2829 prohibits the posting of home addresses or unpublished home telephone numbers of law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers on the Internet under certain circumstances.

These Assembly amendments:

- clarify that a person is prohibited from knowingly, with purpose to expose another to harassment or risk of harm to life or property, or in reckless disregard of the probability of such exposure, posting or publishing the home address or unpublished home telephone number of a law enforcement officer, a retired law enforcement officer, or a spouse or child of the officer on the Internet; a reckless violation is a fourth degree crime and a purposeful violation is a third degree crime. As introduced, the bill made it a disorderly persons offense for a person to post this information on the internet; if posting lead to bodily injury it was a fourth degree crime and if it lead to serious bodily injury, a third degree crime.
- clarify that a State or local governmental agency is not to knowingly post or publish this information regarding a law enforcement officer or retired law enforcement officer on the Internet without the officer's permission.
- clarify that persons, businesses, and associations are prohibited from disclosing this information regarding a law enforcement officer or retired law enforcement officer on the Internet under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that providing that information would expose another to harassment or risk of harm to life or property. The introduced bill provided that persons, businesses, and associations were prohibited from soliciting, selling, or trading this information on the Internet with the intent to cause harm to that officer or any person residing at the officer's home.
- provide that persons, businesses, or associations may be liable to law enforcement officers, retired law enforcement officers, or any other person residing at the officer's home for violating this provision and authorize the officer or person to bring a civil action in Superior Court. The court may award: (1) actual damages, but not less than liquidated damages computed at the rate of \$1,000 for each violation of this bill; (2) punitive damages upon proof of willful or reckless disregard of the law;

(3) reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and (4) any other appropriate preliminary and equitable relief. As introduced, the bill provided that a violation constituted an unlawful practice under the Consumer Fraud Act.

- provide a definition of the term "disclose."