

ASSEMBLY, No. 1172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywomen Murphy, Carter and Assemblyman Stanley

SYNOPSIS

Allows county and municipal police departments to establish designated safe areas for Internet purchase transactions; establishes public awareness campaign.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement and supplementing Title 40A
2 of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Classified advertisement website” means an Internet website
9 that allows individuals to post items for sale or acquisition.

10 “Designated safe area” means an area on municipal police
11 department property that shall be designated by the chief law
12 enforcement officer to be used by members of the public to execute
13 an Internet sales transaction.

14 “Internet sales transaction” means an in-person exchange of an
15 item that was offered for sale or acquisition on a classified
16 advertisement website and in which the parties to the exchange
17 agree to meet at a designated safe area.

18 b. The chief law enforcement officer of each municipal police
19 department may establish a designated safe area which may be used
20 by members of the public to conduct Internet sales transactions.
21 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the municipal police
22 department may install a video camera capable of recording a clear
23 image of the designated safe area at all times the area is made
24 available to the public.

25 c. A municipal police department or member of the department
26 shall not be responsible for regulating Internet sales transactions
27 conducted in the designated safe areas. A municipal police
28 department or member of the department acting in accordance with
29 official duties shall not be civilly liable for crimes or offenses
30 committed by participants to an Internet sales transaction.

31

32 2. a. As used in this section:

33 “Classified advertisement website” means an Internet website
34 that allows individuals to post items for sale or acquisition.

35 “Designated safe area” means an area that the chief law
36 enforcement officer designates on county police department
37 property that shall be used by members of the public to execute an
38 Internet sales transaction.

39 “Internet sales transaction” means an in-person exchange of an
40 item that was offered for sale on a classified advertisement website
41 and in which the parties to the exchange agree to meet at a
42 designated safe area.

43 b. The chief law enforcement officer of each county police
44 department may establish a designated safe area which may be used
45 by members of the public to conduct Internet sales transactions.
46 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the county police
47 department may install a video camera capable of recording a clear

1 image of the designated safe area at all times the area is made
2 available to the public.

3 c. A county police department or member of the department
4 shall not be responsible for regulating Internet sales transactions
5 conducted in the designated safe areas. A county police department
6 or member of the department acting in accordance with official
7 duties shall not be civilly liable for crimes or offenses committed by
8 participants to an Internet sales transaction.

9
10 3. The Office of the Attorney General in the Department of
11 Law and Public Safety shall notify the chief law enforcement
12 officer of each municipal and county police department that the
13 department is permitted to establish a designated safe area pursuant
14 to sections 1 and 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
15 the Legislature as this bill).

16 In addition, the Attorney General shall conduct a public
17 awareness campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available
18 resources, to inform the general public about the designated safe
19 areas established on police department property throughout the
20 State. The public awareness campaign shall include, but not be
21 limited to, an updated list of police departments that have
22 established designated safe areas and safety tips to decrease the risk
23 of crime when engaging in Internet sales transactions.

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25 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
26 next following enactment.

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29 STATEMENT

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31 This bill allows municipal and county police departments to
32 establish designated safe areas which may be used by members of the
33 public to conduct sales transactions for items listed on classified
34 websites, such as craigslist.

35 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the bill allows municipal
36 and county police departments to install a video camera capable of
37 recording a clear image of the designated safe area at all times the area
38 is made available to the public. The bill provides that local police
39 departments and their members would not be responsible for
40 regulating the sales transactions or civilly liable for crimes or offenses
41 committed by participants to the sales transactions.

42 In addition, the bill requires the Attorney General to notify chief
43 law enforcement officers that they are permitted to establish a
44 designated safe area on municipal and county police department
45 property. The Attorney General also is required to conduct a public
46 awareness campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available
47 resources, to inform the general public about designated safe areas
48 established throughout the State. The public awareness campaign is to

A1172 ZWICKER, BENSON

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1 include an updated list of police departments that have established
2 designated safe areas and safety tips to decrease the risk of crime when
3 engaging in Internet sales transactions.

4 It is the sponsor's intent to reduce the risk of crime associated with
5 purchases arranged through craigslist and other online marketplaces by
6 allowing police departments to reserve safe areas at their stations for
7 people to complete sales transactions.