

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1649**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

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**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits disclosure of certain personal information of active, formerly active, and retired judicial officers, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers, and their family members; establishes crime and civil action for disclosing such information.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 22, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 AN ACT prohibiting disclosure of certain information regarding  
 2 <sup>2</sup>**[certain]**<sup>1</sup>**[judges]** <sup>2</sup>**[law enforcement officers,]** active,  
 3 formerly active, and retired<sup>2</sup> judicial officers <sup>2</sup>**[and]** <sup>2</sup>  
 4 prosecutors <sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>**[designated as Daniel's Law]** and law  
 5 enforcement officers, as well as disclosure of certain information  
 6 about their family members under certain circumstances<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> and  
 7 amending <sup>1</sup>P.L.1995, c.23, P.L.2001, c.404, and <sup>2</sup>amending<sup>2</sup> the  
 8 title and body of<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>, and supplementing<sup>2</sup> P.L.2015, c.226 <sup>2</sup>**[**<sup>1</sup>,  
 9 and supplementing Title 47 of the Revised Statutes<sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup>.

10

11 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
 12 of New Jersey:

13

14 <sup>1</sup>1. Section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1) is amended to  
 15 read as follows:

16 1. As used in P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended  
 17 and supplemented:

18 "Biotechnology" means any technique that uses living  
 19 organisms, or parts of living organisms, to make or modify  
 20 products, to improve plants or animals, or to develop micro-  
 21 organisms for specific uses; including the industrial use of  
 22 recombinant DNA, cell fusion, and novel bioprocessing techniques.

23 "Custodian of a government record" or "custodian" means in the  
 24 case of a municipality, the municipal clerk and in the case of any  
 25 other public agency, the officer officially designated by formal  
 26 action of that agency's director or governing body, as the case may  
 27 be.

28 "Government record" or "record" means any paper, written or  
 29 printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph,  
 30 microfilm, data processed or image processed document,  
 31 information stored or maintained electronically or by sound-  
 32 recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been  
 33 made, maintained or kept on file in the course of his or its official  
 34 business by any officer, commission, agency or authority of the  
 35 State or of any political subdivision thereof, including subordinate  
 36 boards thereof, or that has been received in the course of his or its  
 37 official business by any such officer, commission, agency, or  
 38 authority of the State or of any political subdivision thereof,  
 39 including subordinate boards thereof. The terms shall not include  
 40 inter-agency or intra-agency advisory, consultative, or deliberative  
 41 material.

42 A government record shall not include the following information  
 43 which is deemed to be confidential for the purposes of P.L.1963,  
 44 c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended and supplemented:

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted September 17, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SJU committee amendments adopted October 22, 2020.

1 information received by a member of the Legislature from a  
2 constituent or information held by a member of the Legislature  
3 concerning a constituent, including but not limited to information in  
4 written form or contained in any e-mail or computer data base, or in  
5 any telephone record whatsoever, unless it is information the  
6 constituent is required by law to transmit;  
7 any memorandum, correspondence, notes, report or other  
8 communication prepared by, or for, the specific use of a member of  
9 the Legislature in the course of the member's official duties, except  
10 that this provision shall not apply to an otherwise publicly-  
11 accessible report which is required by law to be submitted to the  
12 Legislature or its members;  
13 any copy, reproduction or facsimile of any photograph, negative  
14 or print, including instant photographs and videotapes of the body,  
15 or any portion of the body, of a deceased person, taken by or for the  
16 medical examiner at the scene of death or in the course of a post  
17 mortem examination or autopsy made by or caused to be made by  
18 the medical examiner except:  
19 when used in a criminal action or proceeding in this State which  
20 relates to the death of that person,  
21 for the use as a court of this State permits, by order after good  
22 cause has been shown and after written notification of the request  
23 for the court order has been served at least five days before the  
24 order is made upon the county prosecutor for the county in which  
25 the post mortem examination or autopsy occurred,  
26 for use in the field of forensic pathology or for use in medical or  
27 scientific education or research, or  
28 for use by any law enforcement agency in this State or any other  
29 state or federal law enforcement agency;  
30 criminal investigatory records;  
31 victims' records, except that a victim of a crime shall have access  
32 to the victim's own records;  
33 any written request by a crime victim for a record to which the  
34 victim is entitled to access as provided in this section, including,  
35 but not limited to, any law enforcement agency report, domestic  
36 violence offense report, and temporary or permanent restraining  
37 order;  
38 personal firearms records, except for use by any person  
39 authorized by law to have access to these records or for use by any  
40 government agency, including any court or law enforcement  
41 agency, for purposes of the administration of justice;  
42 personal identifying information received by the Division of Fish  
43 and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection in  
44 connection with the issuance of any license authorizing hunting  
45 with a firearm. For the purposes of this paragraph, personal  
46 identifying information shall include, but not be limited to, identity,  
47 name, address, social security number, telephone number, fax

1 number, driver's license number, email address, or social media  
2 address of any applicant or licensee;

3 trade secrets and proprietary commercial or financial information  
4 obtained from any source. For the purposes of this paragraph, trade  
5 secrets shall include data processing software obtained by a public  
6 body under a licensing agreement which prohibits its disclosure;

7 any record within the attorney-client privilege. This paragraph  
8 shall not be construed as exempting from access attorney or  
9 consultant bills or invoices except that such bills or invoices may be  
10 redacted to remove any information protected by the attorney-client  
11 privilege;

12 administrative or technical information regarding computer  
13 hardware, software and networks which, if disclosed, would  
14 jeopardize computer security;

15 emergency or security information or procedures for any  
16 buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security  
17 of the building or facility or persons therein;

18 security measures and surveillance techniques which, if  
19 disclosed, would create a risk to the safety of persons, property,  
20 electronic data or software;

21 information which, if disclosed, would give an advantage to  
22 competitors or bidders;

23 information generated by or on behalf of public employers or  
24 public employees in connection with any sexual harassment  
25 complaint filed with a public employer or with any grievance filed  
26 by or against an individual or in connection with collective  
27 negotiations, including documents and statements of strategy or  
28 negotiating position;

29 information which is a communication between a public agency  
30 and its insurance carrier, administrative service organization or risk  
31 management office;

32 information which is to be kept confidential pursuant to court  
33 order;

34 any copy of form DD-214, NGB-22, or that form, issued by the  
35 United States Government, or any other certificate of honorable  
36 discharge, or copy thereof, from active service or the reserves of a  
37 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or from service in  
38 the organized militia of the State, that has been filed by an  
39 individual with a public agency, except that a veteran or the  
40 veteran's spouse or surviving spouse shall have access to the  
41 veteran's own records;

42 any copy of an oath of allegiance, oath of office or any  
43 affirmation taken upon assuming the duties of any public office, or  
44 that oath or affirmation, taken by a current or former officer or  
45 employee in any public office or position in this State or in any  
46 county or municipality of this State, including members of the  
47 Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and all law

1 enforcement entities, except that the full name, title, and oath date  
2 of that person contained therein shall not be deemed confidential;  
3 that portion of any document which discloses the social security  
4 number, credit card number, unlisted telephone number or driver  
5 license number of any person, or that portion of any document  
6 which discloses the home address, whether a primary or secondary  
7 residence, of any active <sup>2</sup>, formerly active,<sup>2</sup> or retired <sup>2</sup>judicial  
8 officer or prosecutor, and beginning 18 months after the effective  
9 date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
10 bill), any active, formerly active, or retired<sup>2</sup> law enforcement  
11 officer <sup>2</sup>[, active or retired federal, State, or municipal judicial  
12 officer, or active or retired federal, State, county or municipal  
13 prosecutor]<sup>2</sup>; except for use by any government agency, including  
14 any court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions,  
15 or any private person or entity acting on behalf thereof, or any  
16 private person or entity seeking to enforce payment of court-ordered  
17 child support; except with respect to the disclosure of driver  
18 information by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission as  
19 permitted by section 2 of P.L.1997, c.188 (C.39:2-3.4); and except  
20 that a social security number contained in a record required by law  
21 to be made, maintained or kept on file by a public agency shall be  
22 disclosed when access to the document or disclosure of that  
23 information is not otherwise prohibited by State or federal law,  
24 regulation or order or by State statute, resolution of either or both  
25 houses of the Legislature, Executive Order of the Governor, rule of  
26 court or regulation promulgated under the authority of any statute or  
27 executive order of the Governor;

28 a list of persons identifying themselves as being in need of  
29 special assistance in the event of an emergency maintained by a  
30 municipality for public safety purposes pursuant to section 1 of  
31 P.L.2017, c.266 (C.40:48-2.67); and

32 a list of persons identifying themselves as being in need of  
33 special assistance in the event of an emergency maintained by a  
34 county for public safety purposes pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2011,  
35 c.178 (C.App.A:9-43.13).

36 A government record shall not include, with regard to any public  
37 institution of higher education, the following information which is  
38 deemed to be privileged and confidential:

39 pedagogical, scholarly and/or academic research records and/or  
40 the specific details of any research project conducted under the  
41 auspices of a public higher education institution in New Jersey,  
42 including, but not limited to research, development information,  
43 testing procedures, or information regarding test participants,  
44 related to the development or testing of any pharmaceutical or  
45 pharmaceutical delivery system, except that a custodian may not  
46 deny inspection of a government record or part thereof that gives  
47 the name, title, expenditures, source and amounts of funding and

1 date when the final project summary of any research will be  
2 available;

3 test questions, scoring keys and other examination data  
4 pertaining to the administration of an examination for employment  
5 or academic examination;

6 records of pursuit of charitable contributions or records  
7 containing the identity of a donor of a gift if the donor requires non-  
8 disclosure of the donor's identity as a condition of making the gift  
9 provided that the donor has not received any benefits of or from the  
10 institution of higher education in connection with such gift other  
11 than a request for memorialization or dedication;

12 valuable or rare collections of books **[and/or]** or documents  
13 obtained by gift, grant, bequest or devise conditioned upon limited  
14 public access;

15 information contained on individual admission applications; and  
16 information concerning student records or grievance or  
17 disciplinary proceedings against a student to the extent disclosure  
18 would reveal the identity of the student.

19 "Personal firearms record" means any information contained in a  
20 background investigation conducted by the chief of police, the  
21 county prosecutor, or the Superintendent of State Police, of any  
22 applicant for a permit to purchase a handgun, firearms identification  
23 card license, or firearms registration; any application for a permit to  
24 purchase a handgun, firearms identification card license, or firearms  
25 registration; any document reflecting the issuance or denial of a  
26 permit to purchase a handgun, firearms identification card license,  
27 or firearms registration; and any permit to purchase a handgun,  
28 firearms identification card license, or any firearms license,  
29 certification, certificate, form of register, or registration statement.  
30 For the purposes of this paragraph, information contained in a  
31 background investigation shall include, but not be limited to,  
32 identity, name, address, social security number, phone number, fax  
33 number, driver's license number, email address, social media  
34 address of any applicant, licensee, registrant or permit holder.

35 "Public agency" or "agency" means any of the principal  
36 departments in the Executive Branch of State Government, and any  
37 division, board, bureau, office, commission or other instrumentality  
38 within or created by such department; the Legislature of the State  
39 and any office, board, bureau or commission within or created by  
40 the Legislative Branch; and any independent State authority,  
41 commission, instrumentality or agency. The terms also mean any  
42 political subdivision of the State or combination of political  
43 subdivisions, and any division, board, bureau, office, commission or  
44 other instrumentality within or created by a political subdivision of  
45 the State or combination of political subdivisions, and any  
46 independent authority, commission, instrumentality or agency  
47 created by a political subdivision or combination of political  
48 subdivisions.

1 "Law enforcement agency" means a public agency, or part  
2 thereof, determined by the Attorney General to have law  
3 enforcement responsibilities.

4 "Constituent" means any State resident or other person  
5 communicating with a member of the Legislature.

6 "Judicial officer" means <sup>2</sup>[the Chief Justice or an Associate  
7 Justice of the United States Supreme Court, a judge of the United  
8 States Court of Appeals, a judge of a federal district court,  
9 including a magistrate judge, a judge of]<sup>2</sup> any <sup>2</sup>[other court  
10 established by federal law, the Chief Justice or an Associate Justice  
11 of the New Jersey Supreme Court, a] active, formerly active, or  
12 retired federal, state, county, or municipal<sup>2</sup> judge <sup>2</sup>[of the Superior  
13 Court]<sup>2</sup> , <sup>2</sup>including<sup>2</sup> a judge of the Tax Court <sup>2</sup>[, a judge of a  
14 municipal court] and any other court of limited jurisdiction  
15 established, altered, or abolished by law<sup>2</sup> , a judge of the Office of  
16 Administrative Law, a judge of the Division of Workers'  
17 Compensation, <sup>2</sup>[or a] and any other<sup>2</sup> judge <sup>2</sup>[of any other court or  
18 who handles proceedings] established by law who serves<sup>2</sup> in the  
19 executive branch <sup>2</sup>[of the State government or a local government  
20 established by State law]<sup>2</sup> .

21 "Member of the Legislature" means any person elected or  
22 selected to serve in the New Jersey Senate or General Assembly.

23 "Criminal investigatory record" means a record which is not  
24 required by law to be made, maintained or kept on file that is held  
25 by a law enforcement agency which pertains to any criminal  
26 investigation or related civil enforcement proceeding.

27 "Victim's record" means an individually-identifiable file or  
28 document held by a victims' rights agency which pertains directly to  
29 a victim of a crime except that a victim of a crime shall have access  
30 to the victim's own records.

31 "Victim of a crime" means a person who has suffered personal or  
32 psychological injury or death or incurs loss of or injury to personal  
33 or real property as a result of a crime, or if such a person is  
34 deceased or incapacitated, a member of that person's immediate  
35 family.

36 "Victims' rights agency" means a public agency, or part thereof,  
37 the primary responsibility of which is providing services, including  
38 but not limited to food, shelter, or clothing, medical, psychiatric,  
39 psychological or legal services or referrals, information and referral  
40 services, counseling and support services, or financial services to  
41 victims of crimes, including victims of sexual assault, domestic  
42 violence, violent crime, child endangerment, child abuse or child  
43 neglect, and the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, established  
44 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.) and continued as  
45 the Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursuant to P.L.2007,  
46 c.95 (C.52:4B-3.2 et al.) and Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008.<sup>1</sup>  
47 (cf: P.L.2019, c.255, s.4)

1       <sup>1</sup>2. Section 6 of P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5) is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       6. a. The custodian of a government record shall permit the  
4 record to be inspected, examined, and copied by any person during  
5 regular business hours; or in the case of a municipality having a  
6 population of 5,000 or fewer according to the most recent federal  
7 decennial census, a board of education having a total district  
8 enrollment of 500 or fewer, or a public authority having less than  
9 \$10 million in assets, during not less than six regular business hours  
10 over not less than three business days per week or the entity's  
11 regularly-scheduled business hours, whichever is less; unless a  
12 government record is exempt from public access by: P.L.1963, c.73  
13 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended and supplemented; any other  
14 statute; resolution of either or both houses of the Legislature;  
15 regulation promulgated under the authority of any statute or  
16 Executive Order of the Governor; Executive Order of the Governor;  
17 Rules of Court; any federal law; federal regulation; or federal order.  
18 Prior to allowing access to any government record, the custodian  
19 thereof shall redact from that record any information which  
20 discloses the social security number, credit card number, unlisted  
21 telephone number, or driver license number of any person, or the  
22 home address, whether a primary or secondary residence, of any  
23 active<sup>2</sup>, formerly active,<sup>2</sup> or retired<sup>2</sup> judicial officer or prosecutor,  
24 and beginning 18 months after the effective date of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_,  
25 c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), any active,  
26 formerly active, or retired<sup>2</sup> law enforcement officer<sup>2</sup> [, active or  
27 retired federal, State, or municipal judicial officer, or active or  
28 retired federal, State, county, or municipal prosecutor]<sup>2</sup>; except for  
29 use by any government agency, including any court or law  
30 enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions, or any private  
31 person or entity acting on behalf thereof, or any private person or  
32 entity seeking to enforce payment of court-ordered child support;  
33 except with respect to the disclosure of driver information by the  
34 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission as permitted by section 2 of  
35 P.L.1997, c.188 (C.39:2-3.4); and except that a social security  
36 number contained in a record required by law to be made,  
37 maintained or kept on file by a public agency shall be disclosed  
38 when access to the document or disclosure of that information is not  
39 otherwise prohibited by State or federal law, regulation or order or  
40 by State statute, resolution of either or both houses of the  
41 Legislature, Executive Order of the Governor, rule of court or  
42 regulation promulgated under the authority of any statute or  
43 executive order of the Governor. Except where an agency can  
44 demonstrate an emergent need, a regulation that limits access to  
45 government records shall not be retroactive in effect or applied to  
46 deny a request for access to a government record that is pending  
47 before the agency, the council or a court at the time of the adoption  
48 of the regulation.

1       b. (1) A copy or copies of a government record may be  
2 purchased by any person upon payment of the fee prescribed by law  
3 or regulation. Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation  
4 and except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the fee  
5 assessed for the duplication of a government record embodied in the  
6 form of printed matter shall be \$0.05 per letter size page or smaller,  
7 and \$0.07 per legal size page or larger. If a public agency can  
8 demonstrate that its actual costs for duplication of a government  
9 record exceed the foregoing rates, the public agency shall be  
10 permitted to charge the actual cost of duplicating the record. The  
11 actual cost of duplicating the record, upon which all copy fees are  
12 based, shall be the cost of materials and supplies used to make a  
13 copy of the record, but shall not include the cost of labor or other  
14 overhead expenses associated with making the copy except as  
15 provided for in subsection c. of this section. Access to electronic  
16 records and non-printed materials shall be provided free of charge,  
17 but the public agency may charge for the actual costs of any needed  
18 supplies such as computer discs.

19       (2) No fee shall be charged to a victim of a crime for a copy or  
20 copies of a record to which the crime victim is entitled to access, as  
21 provided in section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1).

22       c. Whenever the nature, format, manner of collation, or volume  
23 of a government record embodied in the form of printed matter to  
24 be inspected, examined, or copied pursuant to this section is such  
25 that the record cannot be reproduced by ordinary document copying  
26 equipment in ordinary business size or involves an extraordinary  
27 expenditure of time and effort to accommodate the request, the  
28 public agency may charge, in addition to the actual cost of  
29 duplicating the record, a special service charge that shall be  
30 reasonable and shall be based upon the actual direct cost of  
31 providing the copy or copies; provided, however, that in the case of  
32 a municipality, rates for the duplication of particular records when  
33 the actual cost of copying exceeds the foregoing rates shall be  
34 established in advance by ordinance. The requestor shall have the  
35 opportunity to review and object to the charge prior to it being  
36 incurred.

37       d. A custodian shall permit access to a government record and  
38 provide a copy thereof in the medium requested if the public agency  
39 maintains the record in that medium. If the public agency does not  
40 maintain the record in the medium requested, the custodian shall  
41 either convert the record to the medium requested or provide a copy  
42 in some other meaningful medium. If a request is for a record: (1)  
43 in a medium not routinely used by the agency; (2) not routinely  
44 developed or maintained by an agency; or (3) requiring a substantial  
45 amount of manipulation or programming of information technology,  
46 the agency may charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication,  
47 a special charge that shall be reasonable and shall be based on the  
48 cost for any extensive use of information technology, or for the

1 labor cost of personnel providing the service, that is actually  
2 incurred by the agency or attributable to the agency for the  
3 programming, clerical, and supervisory assistance required, or both.

4 e. Immediate access ordinarily shall be granted to budgets,  
5 bills, vouchers, contracts, including collective negotiations  
6 agreements and individual employment contracts, and public  
7 employee salary and overtime information.

8 f. The custodian of a public agency shall adopt a form for the  
9 use of any person who requests access to a government record held  
10 or controlled by the public agency. The form shall provide space  
11 for the name, address, and phone number of the requestor and a  
12 brief description of the government record sought. The form shall  
13 include space for the custodian to indicate which record will be  
14 made available, when the record will be available, and the fees to be  
15 charged. The form shall also include the following: (1) specific  
16 directions and procedures for requesting a record; (2) a statement as  
17 to whether prepayment of fees or a deposit is required; (3) the time  
18 period within which the public agency is required by P.L.1963, c.73  
19 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended and supplemented, to make the  
20 record available; (4) a statement of the requestor's right to challenge  
21 a decision by the public agency to deny access and the procedure  
22 for filing an appeal; (5) space for the custodian to list reasons if a  
23 request is denied in whole or in part; (6) space for the requestor to  
24 sign and date the form; (7) space for the custodian to sign and date  
25 the form if the request is fulfilled or denied. The custodian may  
26 require a deposit against costs for reproducing documents sought  
27 through an anonymous request whenever the custodian anticipates  
28 that the information thus requested will cost in excess of \$5 to  
29 reproduce.

30 g. A request for access to a government record shall be in  
31 writing and hand-delivered, mailed, transmitted electronically, or  
32 otherwise conveyed to the appropriate custodian. A custodian shall  
33 promptly comply with a request to inspect, examine, copy, or  
34 provide a copy of a government record. If the custodian is unable  
35 to comply with a request for access, the custodian shall indicate the  
36 specific basis therefor on the request form and promptly return it to  
37 the requestor. The custodian shall sign and date the form and  
38 provide the requestor with a copy thereof. If the custodian of a  
39 government record asserts that part of a particular record is exempt  
40 from public access pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.)  
41 as amended and supplemented, the custodian shall delete or excise  
42 from a copy of the record that portion which the custodian asserts is  
43 exempt from access and shall promptly permit access to the  
44 remainder of the record. If the government record requested is  
45 temporarily unavailable because it is in use or in storage, the  
46 custodian shall so advise the requestor and shall make arrangements  
47 to promptly make available a copy of the record. If a request for  
48 access to a government record would substantially disrupt agency

1 operations, the custodian may deny access to the record after  
2 attempting to reach a reasonable solution with the requestor that  
3 accommodates the interests of the requestor and the agency.

4 h. Any officer or employee of a public agency who receives a  
5 request for access to a government record shall forward the request  
6 to the custodian of the record or direct the requestor to the  
7 custodian of the record.

8 i. (1) Unless a shorter time period is otherwise provided by  
9 statute, regulation, or executive order, a custodian of a government  
10 record shall grant access to a government record or deny a request  
11 for access to a government record as soon as possible, but not later  
12 than seven business days after receiving the request, provided that  
13 the record is currently available and not in storage or archived. In  
14 the event a custodian fails to respond within seven business days  
15 after receiving a request, the failure to respond shall be deemed a  
16 denial of the request, unless the requestor has elected not to provide  
17 a name, address or telephone number, or other means of contacting  
18 the requestor. If the requestor has elected not to provide a name,  
19 address, or telephone number, or other means of contacting the  
20 requestor, the custodian shall not be required to respond until the  
21 requestor reappears before the custodian seeking a response to the  
22 original request. If the government record is in storage or archived,  
23 the requestor shall be so advised within seven business days after  
24 the custodian receives the request. The requestor shall be advised  
25 by the custodian when the record can be made available. If the  
26 record is not made available by that time, access shall be deemed  
27 denied.

28 (2) During a period declared pursuant to the laws of this State as  
29 a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local  
30 disaster emergency, the deadlines by which to respond to a request  
31 for, or grant or deny access to, a government record under  
32 paragraph (1) of this subsection or subsection e. of this section shall  
33 not apply, provided, however, that the custodian of a government  
34 record shall make a reasonable effort, as the circumstances permit,  
35 to respond to a request for access to a government record within  
36 seven business days or as soon as possible thereafter.

37 j. A custodian shall post prominently in public view in the part  
38 or parts of the office or offices of the custodian that are open to or  
39 frequented by the public a statement that sets forth in clear, concise  
40 and specific terms the right to appeal a denial of, or failure to  
41 provide, access to a government record by any person for  
42 inspection, examination, or copying or for purchase of copies  
43 thereof and the procedure by which an appeal may be filed.

44 k. The files maintained by the Office of the Public Defender  
45 that relate to the handling of any case shall be considered  
46 confidential and shall not be open to inspection by any person  
47 unless authorized by law, court order, or the State Public Defender.<sup>1</sup>  
48 (cf: P.L.2020, c.10, s.1)

1       <sup>1</sup>3. The title of P.L.2015, c.226 is amended to read as follows:

2       **AN ACT** concerning certain information regarding **[law**  
3       **enforcement]** certain public officers and supplementing Title 2C  
4       of the New Jersey Statutes and Titles 47 and 56 of the Revised  
5       Statutes.<sup>1</sup>

6       (cf: P.L.2015, c.226, title)

7

8       <sup>1</sup>**[2.] 4.**<sup>1</sup> Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.226 (C.47:1-17) is amended  
9       to read as follows:

10       2. A State or local governmental agency shall not knowingly  
11       post or publish on the Internet <sup>2</sup>, or repost, republish, or otherwise  
12       make available,<sup>2</sup> the home address or unpublished home telephone  
13       number of any active <sup>2</sup>, formerly active, <sup>2</sup> or retired <sup>2</sup>judicial officer,  
14       as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1), prosecutor,  
15       or<sup>2</sup> law enforcement officer **[or law enforcement officer]** <sup>2</sup>**[,]**<sup>2</sup>  
16       <sup>1</sup>**[judge of any court of law of this State, or State, county]** <sup>2</sup>**[any**  
17       active or retired federal, State, or municipal judicial officer, as  
18       defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1)<sup>1</sup> , or  
19       <sup>1</sup>**[municipal]** any active or retired federal, State, county or  
20       municipal<sup>1</sup> prosecutor]<sup>2</sup> without first obtaining the written  
21       permission of that **[law enforcement officer or retired law**  
22       **enforcement officer]** <sup>2</sup>**[individual]** person<sup>2</sup>.

23       <sup>2</sup>The amendatory provisions of this section, enacted by P.L. ,  
24       c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall not  
25       be operative and enforceable with respect to any active, formerly  
26       active, or retired law enforcement officer until 18 months after the  
27       effective date of that act; but the provisions of this section, prior to  
28       being amended, shall remain operative and enforceable with respect  
29       to any active or retired law enforcement officer during that 18-  
30       month period.<sup>2</sup>

31       (cf: P.L.2015, c.226, s.2)

32

33       <sup>1</sup>**[1] 5.**<sup>1</sup> Section 1 of P.L.2015, c.226 (C.2C:20-31.1) is  
34       amended to read as follows:

35       1. A person shall not knowingly, with purpose to expose  
36       another to harassment or risk of harm to life or property, or in  
37       reckless disregard of the probability of such exposure, post or  
38       publish on the Internet <sup>2</sup>, or repost, republish, or otherwise make  
39       available,<sup>2</sup> the home address or unpublished home telephone  
40       number of any active <sup>2</sup>, formerly active, <sup>2</sup> or retired <sup>2</sup>judicial officer,  
41       as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1), prosecutor,  
42       or<sup>2</sup> law enforcement officer, [law enforcement officer] <sup>1</sup>**[judge of**  
43       any court of law of this State, or] <sup>2</sup>**[any active or retired federal,**  
44       State, or municipal judicial officer, as defined by section 1 of  
45       P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1), or any active or retired federal,<sup>1</sup>

1 State, county or municipal prosecutor,]<sup>2</sup> or the spouse or child [of  
 2 a law enforcement officer] thereof. A reckless violation of this  
 3 section is a crime of the fourth degree. A purposeful violation of  
 4 this section is a crime of the third degree.

5 <sup>2</sup>The amendatory provisions of this section, enacted by P.L. \_\_\_\_\_,  
 6 c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall not  
 7 be operative and enforceable with respect to any active, formerly  
 8 active, or retired law enforcement officer, or the spouse or child  
 9 thereof, until 18 months after the effective date of that act; but the  
 10 provisions of this section, prior to being amended, shall remain  
 11 operative and enforceable with respect to any active or retired law  
 12 enforcement officer, or the spouse or child of a law enforcement  
 13 officer, during that 18-month period.<sup>2</sup>

14 (cf: P.L.2015, c.226, s.1)

15  
 16 <sup>1</sup>[3.] 6.<sup>1</sup> Section 3 of P.L.2015, c.226 (C.56:8-166.1) is  
 17 amended to read as follows:

18 3. a. A person, business, or association shall not disclose on  
 19 the Internet <sup>2</sup>, or re-disclose or otherwise make available,<sup>2</sup> the home  
 20 address or unpublished home telephone number of [a law  
 21 enforcement officer or] <sup>2</sup>[an] any<sup>2</sup> active<sup>2</sup>, formerly active,<sup>2</sup> or  
 22 retired<sup>2</sup> judicial officer, as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23  
 23 (C.47:1A-1.1), prosecutor, or<sup>2</sup> law enforcement officer <sup>2</sup>[.]<sup>2</sup>  
 24 <sup>1</sup>[judge of any court of law of this State, or] <sup>2</sup>[an active or retired  
 25 federal, State, or municipal judicial officer, as defined by section 1  
 26 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1), or an active or retired federal,<sup>1</sup>  
 27 State, county or municipal prosecutor]<sup>2</sup> under circumstances in  
 28 which a reasonable person would believe that providing that  
 29 information would expose another to harassment or risk of harm to  
 30 life or property.

31 <sup>2</sup>The amendatory provisions of this section, enacted by P.L. \_\_\_\_\_,  
 32 c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall not  
 33 be operative and enforceable with respect to any active, formerly  
 34 active, or retired law enforcement officer until 18 months after the  
 35 effective date of that act; but the provisions of this section, prior to  
 36 being amended, shall remain operative and enforceable with respect  
 37 to any active or retired law enforcement officer during that 18-  
 38 month period.<sup>2</sup>

39 b. A person, business, or association that violates subsection a.  
 40 of this section shall be liable to the [law enforcement officer,]  
 41 <sup>1</sup>[active or retired law enforcement officer, judge of any court of  
 42 law of this State, or State, county, or municipal prosecutor, or any  
 43 other person residing at the home address of the [law enforcement  
 44 officer] active or retired law enforcement officer, judge of any  
 45 court of law of this State, or State, county, or municipal  
 46 prosecutor.] aggrieved person<sup>1 2</sup> or any other person residing at the

1 home address of the aggrieved person,<sup>2</sup> who may bring a civil  
2 action in the Superior Court.

3 c. The court may award:

4 (1) actual damages, but not less than liquidated damages  
5 computed at the rate of \$1,000 for each violation of this act;

6 (2) punitive damages upon proof of willful or reckless disregard  
7 of the law;

8 (3) reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs  
9 reasonably incurred; and

10 (4) any other preliminary and equitable relief as the court  
11 determines to be appropriate.

12 d. For the purposes of this section, "disclose" shall mean to  
13 solicit, sell, manufacture, give, provide, lend, trade, mail, deliver,  
14 transfer, <sup>2</sup>post,<sup>2</sup> publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present,  
15 exhibit, advertise or offer.

16 (cf: P.L.2015, c.226, s.3)

17

18 <sup>17.</sup> (New section) a. <sup>2</sup>(1) **[An] Any<sup>2</sup> active<sup>2</sup>, formerly active,<sup>2</sup>**  
19 **or retired<sup>2</sup> [law enforcement officer, an active or retired federal,**  
20 **State, or municipal]<sup>2</sup> judicial officer, as defined by section 1 of**  
21 **P.L1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1), or <sup>2</sup>[active or retired federal, State,**  
22 **county or municipal]<sup>2</sup> prosecutor<sup>2</sup>,<sup>2</sup> whose home address or**  
23 **unpublished telephone number<sup>2</sup> is disclosed on the Internet, or re-**  
24 **disclosed or otherwise made available, by any person, business, or**  
25 **association,<sup>2</sup> or whose immediate family member's name, home**  
26 **address<sup>2</sup>,<sup>2</sup> or unpublished telephone number is disclosed on the**  
27 **Internet<sup>2</sup>, or re-disclosed or otherwise made available,<sup>2</sup> by any**  
28 **person, business, or association<sup>2</sup>, which in the case of a family**  
29 **member's name or home address may be used, alone or in**  
30 **conjunction with any other information, to identify the person as the**  
31 **family member of a judicial officer or prosecutor,<sup>2</sup> may request that**  
32 **the person, business, or association that disclosed<sup>2</sup>, re-disclosed, or**  
33 **otherwise made available<sup>2</sup> that information refrain from<sup>2</sup> [such**  
34 **disclosure] that action<sup>2</sup> and remove<sup>2</sup> [that] the<sup>2</sup> information from**  
35 **the Internet<sup>2</sup> or where otherwise made available.**

36 (2) Beginning 18 months after the effective date of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_,  
37 c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), any law  
38 enforcement officer whose home address or unpublished home  
39 telephone number is disclosed on the Internet, or re-disclosed or  
40 otherwise made available, by any person, business, or association,  
41 or whose immediate family member's name, home address, or  
42 unpublished telephone number is disclosed on the Internet, or re-  
43 disclosed or otherwise made available, by any person, business, or  
44 association, which in the case of a family member's name or home  
45 address may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other  
46 information, to identify the person as the family member of a law

1 enforcement officer, may request that the person, business, or  
2 association that disclosed, re-disclosed, or otherwise made available  
3 that information refrain from that action and remove the  
4 information from the Internet or where otherwise made available.

5 For purposes of this section, “immediate family member” shall  
6 include a spouse, child, or parent of an active, formerly active, or  
7 retired judicial officer, as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23  
8 (C.47:1A-1.1), prosecutor, or law enforcement officer, or any other  
9 family member related by blood or by law to the judicial officer,  
10 prosecutor, or law enforcement officer who lives in the same  
11 residence<sup>2</sup> .

12 b. (1)<sup>2</sup> A request to refrain <sup>2</sup>【from disclosure】<sup>2</sup> and remove  
13 information <sup>2</sup>【from the Internet】<sup>2</sup> pursuant to subsection a. of this  
14 section shall be made in writing, addressed to the person, business,  
15 or association that disclosed <sup>2</sup>, re-disclosed, or otherwise made  
16 available<sup>2</sup> the information, and may be made by the <sup>2</sup>【law  
17 enforcement officer, the federal, State, or municipal】<sup>2</sup> judicial  
18 officer, as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1),  
19 <sup>2</sup>【or the federal, State, county or municipal】<sup>2</sup> prosecutor, <sup>2</sup>or law  
20 enforcement officer,<sup>2</sup> as appropriate, or by the <sup>2</sup>person’s<sup>2</sup> employer  
21 <sup>2</sup>【of the law enforcement officer, judicial officer or prosecutor】<sup>2</sup>  
22 with the consent of that <sup>2</sup>【individual】 person<sup>2</sup> .

23 <sup>2</sup>【c.】 (2)<sup>2</sup> Upon receipt of a written request to refrain <sup>2</sup>【from  
24 disclosure】<sup>2</sup> and remove information <sup>2</sup>【from the Internet pursuant  
25 to this section】<sup>2</sup> , the person, business <sup>2, 2</sup> or association that <sup>2</sup>【made  
26 such disclosure】 disclosed, re-disclosed, or otherwise made  
27 available the information<sup>2</sup> shall have 72 hours to remove that  
28 information from the Internet <sup>2</sup>or where otherwise made available,<sup>2</sup>  
29 and shall not disclose <sup>2</sup>, re-disclose, or otherwise make available<sup>2</sup>  
30 that information to any other person, business, or association  
31 through any medium.

32 <sup>2</sup>【d.】 c.<sup>2</sup> An active <sup>2</sup>, formerly active,<sup>2</sup> or retired <sup>2</sup>【law  
33 enforcement officer, an active or retired federal, State, or  
34 municipal】<sup>2</sup> judicial officer, <sup>2</sup>【as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995,  
35 c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1), or an active or retired federal, State, county, or  
36 municipal】<sup>2</sup> prosecutor <sup>2</sup>, or law enforcement officer<sup>2</sup> whose  
37 <sup>2</sup>【home address or unpublished telephone number】 own  
38 information,<sup>2</sup> or <sup>2</sup>【whose】<sup>2</sup> immediate family member’s <sup>2</sup>【name,  
39 home address or unpublished telephone number】 information,<sup>2</sup> was  
40 not timely removed from the Internet <sup>2</sup>【in violation of the  
41 provisions of subsection c. of this section or was disclosed on the  
42 Internet subsequent to】 or where otherwise made available within  
43 72 hours by a person, business, or association following<sup>2</sup> receipt of  
44 a <sup>2</sup>written<sup>2</sup> request <sup>2</sup>【pursuant to subsection b. of this section】 to  
45 refrain and remove that information, or the person, business, or

1 association re-discloses on the Internet or otherwise makes  
 2 available the same information at any time subsequent to receipt of  
 3 the written request,<sup>2</sup> may bring an action seeking injunctive or  
 4 declaratory relief in the Superior Court. If the court grants  
 5 injunctive or declaratory relief, the person, business, or association  
 6 responsible for the violation shall be required to pay reasonable  
 7 attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred by the  
 8 <sup>2</sup>[law enforcement officer,]<sup>2</sup> judicial officer, <sup>2</sup>[or] ,<sup>2</sup> prosecutor,  
 9 <sup>2</sup>or law enforcement officer,<sup>2</sup> as appropriate.

10 <sup>2</sup>[e. For purposes of this section, "immediate family member"  
 11 shall include a spouse, child or parent of a law enforcement officer,  
 12 a judicial officer, as defined by section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23  
 13 (C.47:1A-1.1), or a federal, State, county, or municipal prosecutor,  
 14 or any blood relative of a law enforcement officer, a judicial officer  
 15 or a prosecutor or of that individual's spouse who lives in the same  
 16 residence as the law enforcement officer, judicial officer or  
 17 prosecutor.<sup>1</sup>]<sup>2</sup>

18  
 19 <sup>1</sup>8. (New section) This act shall be liberally construed in order  
 20 to accomplish its purpose and the public policy of this State, which  
 21 is to enhance the safety and security of certain public officials in the  
 22 justice system, including <sup>2</sup>[law enforcement officers,]<sup>2</sup> judicial  
 23 officers <sup>2</sup>[and] ,<sup>2</sup> prosecutors <sup>2</sup>, and law enforcement officers,<sup>2</sup> who  
 24 served or have served the people of New Jersey, and the immediate  
 25 family members of these individuals, to foster the ability of these  
 26 public servants who perform critical roles in the justice system to  
 27 carry out their official duties without fear of personal reprisal from  
 28 affected individuals related to the performance of their public  
 29 functions.<sup>1</sup>

30  
 31 <sup>2</sup>[<sup>1</sup>9. (New section) If any section, subsection, clause, sentence,  
 32 paragraph, or part of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the  
 33 Legislature as this bill), or the application thereof to any person or  
 34 circumstances, shall, for any reason, be adjudged by a court of  
 35 competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect,  
 36 impair, or invalidate the remainder of this act, P.L. , c. (pending  
 37 before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>1</sup>]<sup>2</sup>

38  
 39 <sup>1</sup>[4.] <sup>2</sup>[10.1] <sup>9.</sup><sup>2</sup> This act shall take effect immediately <sup>2</sup>, but for  
 40 those provisions of the act which do not become operative and  
 41 enforceable with respect to law enforcement officers until 18  
 42 months after the effective date, any anticipatory administrative  
 43 action may be taken in advance of the operative date that is  
 44 necessary for the implementation of those provisions<sup>2</sup>.