

ASSEMBLY, No. 1127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes development and operation of computer system which would allow electronic access to outstanding arrest warrant information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning access to certain court records and
2 supplementing Title 2B of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Administrative Office of the Courts is authorized to
8 develop and operate an automated system containing outstanding
9 arrest warrant information that is accessible to the public through
10 the official judiciary website. The automated system shall interface
11 with the Automated Complaint System and the Automated Traffic
12 System and shall allow a person to voluntarily input identifying
13 personal information, as determined by the Supreme Court, which
14 may include but not be limited to a name and address, in order to
15 verify if that person has an outstanding arrest warrant.

16 b. If an online inquiry made to the automated system reveals
17 that the person has an outstanding warrant for arrest, the automated
18 system shall provide additional information regarding the pending
19 charge against that person, the law enforcement authority with
20 jurisdiction over the outstanding arrest warrant, and any fines, court
21 appearances, or other method by which the person making the
22 inquiry is able to effectuate the recall of the outstanding warrant.

23 c. In allowing access to outstanding warrant information
24 pursuant to subsection a. of this section the judiciary web site shall
25 provide necessary instructions, explanations, notices, and other
26 information to any person attempting to obtain outstanding arrest
27 warrant information to enable that person to accurately and
28 effectively complete the online inquiry through the automated
29 system.

30 d. The Administrative Office of the Courts is authorized to
31 incorporate any other content and security features, in consultation
32 with the New Jersey State Police and the Office of Information
33 Technology, that is necessary for the proper, secure, and effective
34 functioning of the automated system established pursuant to
35 subsection a. of this section.

36 e. The Supreme Court may issues Rules of Court to effectuate
37 the purposes of this act.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill authorizes the Administrative Office of the Courts to
45 develop and operate an automated system containing outstanding
46 arrest warrant information that is accessible to the public through
47 the official judiciary website. The automated system is required to
48 allow a person to input certain identifying information, to be

1 determined by the Supreme Court, in order to make an inquiry as to
2 whether he or she has an outstanding warrant for arrest. If the
3 person's inquiry reveals that he or she has an outstanding arrest
4 warrant, the system is required to provide additional information
5 regarding the pending charge, the law enforcement authority with
6 jurisdiction over the outstanding arrest warrant, and any fines, court
7 appearances, or other method by which the person making the
8 inquiry is able to effectuate the recall of the outstanding warrant.

9 In many instances, people are unaware that they have an arrest
10 warrant issued under their name until they are actually placed under
11 arrest by a law enforcement officer. The purpose of this bill is to
12 allow a person who may be unsure if a warrant has been issued for
13 his or her arrest to be notified online, and to take any action
14 necessary to have the warrant recalled.