

ASSEMBLY, No. 3716

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits sex offenders from residing within 1,000 feet of victim's home or workplace.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning sex offenders and supplementing P.L.1994,
2 c.133 (C.2C:7-1 et seq.).

3

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

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7 1. It shall be a crime of the fourth degree for a person subject
8 to the registration requirements set forth in P.L.1994, c.133
9 (C.2C:7-1 et seq.) who has committed a sex offense as defined in
10 section 2 of P.L.1994, c.133 (C.2C:7-2) to reside within 1,000 feet
11 of the home or workplace of the person's victim unless:

12 a. the person is required to serve a sentence at a jail, prison,
13 juvenile facility, or other correctional institution or facility which is
14 located within 1,000 feet of the victim's home or workplace;

15 b. the person is receiving treatment at a mental health facility
16 located within 1,000 feet of the victim's home or workplace; or

17 c. the person established the residence prior to the effective
18 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
19 bill).

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21 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
22 next following enactment.

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25 STATEMENT

26

27 This bill makes it a crime of the fourth degree for registered sex
28 offenders to reside within 1,000 feet of their victim's home or
29 workplace.

30 The residential ban established under the bill would not apply to
31 a sex offender who is serving a sentence at a jail, prison, juvenile
32 facility, or other correctional institution or facility that is located
33 within 1,000 feet of the victim's home or workplace; is receiving
34 treatment at a mental health facility located within 1,000 feet of the
35 victim's home or workplace; or established the residence prior to
36 the bill's effective date.

37 A crime of the fourth degree is punishable by imprisonment of
38 up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

39 It is the sponsor's intent in introducing this bill to close a
40 loophole in Megan's Law which does not explicitly prohibit a sex
41 offender from residing near his or her victim. At least five other
42 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, and West Virginia)
43 have enacted laws prohibiting sex offenders from residing within a
44 certain distance of their victims, and Oklahoma has introduced
45 similar legislation.