

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4921**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires public entities that operate websites or webpages pertaining to domestic violence to utilize certain electronic tools and security measures to protect online visitors who may be victims of domestic violence.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the protection of victims of domestic violence  
2 who visit State-operated websites and webpages pertaining to  
3 domestic violence and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised  
4 Statutes.

6       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7       *of New Jersey:*

9        1.    a. A public entity that operates a publicly accessible website  
10        or webpage providing information related to domestic violence shall  
11        ensure that the website or webpage is equipped with appropriate  
12        electronic tools and security measures to protect the safety, security,  
13        and identity of visitors to the website or webpage who may be  
14        victims of domestic violence. The electronic tools and security  
15        measures utilized pursuant to this section shall include:

16 (1) a panic switch or quick-exit button that enables a visitor to  
17 the website or webpage to quickly escape from the site or page, as  
18 the case may be;

19 (2) a feature or function that prevents the website or webpage  
20 from being listed in the visitor's browser history; and

(3) any other electronic tools or security measures, required by the Department of Children and Families, which are designed to protect the safety, security, and identity of visitors to the website or webpage who may be victims of domestic violence.

25      b. As used in this section:

26       “Domestic violence” means the same as that term is defined by  
27       section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) and section 1 of  
28       P.L.2003, c.41 (C.17:29B-16).

29 “Public entity” means the State; any office, department, branch,  
30 division, subdivision, bureau, board, commission, agency,  
31 instrumentality, or individual acting under color of law in the State;  
32 and any county, municipality, district, public authority, public  
33 agency, or other political subdivision or public body in the State.

34 “Victim of domestic violence” means the same as that term is  
35 defined by section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).

2. The Department of Children and Families shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

42        3. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

47 This bill would require each public entity in the State that  
48 operates a website or webpage providing information on domestic

1 violence to ensure that the website or webpage is equipped with  
2 appropriate electronic tools and security measures to protect the  
3 safety, security, and identity of visitors to the website or webpage  
4 who may be victims of domestic violence. The electronic tools and  
5 security measures utilized under the bill are to include: 1) a panic  
6 switch or quick-exit button that enables a visitor to the website or  
7 webpage to quickly escape from the site or page; 2) a feature or  
8 function that prevents the website or webpage from being listed in  
9 the visitor's browser history; and 3) any other electronic tools or  
10 security measures, required by the Department of Children and  
11 Families, which are designed to protect the safety, security, or  
12 identity of visitors to the website or webpage who are victims of  
13 domestic violence.