

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 185

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle

SYNOPSIS

Respectfully petitions federal government to provide enhanced security to federal judges.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/12/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully petitioning the federal
2 government to provide enhanced security for federal court
3 judges.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, An attack at the home of Judge Esther Salas of the United
6 States District Court for the District of New Jersey in July 2020
7 resulted in the killing of the judge's son, and critical injury to the
8 judge's husband; and

9 **WHEREAS**, John H. Wood Jr., a judge of the United States District
10 Court for the Western District of Texas, Richard J. Daronco, a
11 judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of
12 New York, Robert Smith Vance, commissioned to serve on the
13 Fifth Circuit and later the Eleventh Circuit and John Roll, a judge of
14 the United States District Court for the District of Arizona are four
15 federal judges killed in office since 1979, three of which killings
16 occurred at each judge's personal residence; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Other attempts made on federal judges include a fatal
18 attack at the home of Judge Joan Lefkowitz of the United States
19 District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, which killed the
20 judge's husband and mother; and

21 **WHEREAS**, According to the December 2009 report, Review of the
22 Protection of the Judiciary and the United States Attorneys, issued
23 by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General,
24 threats and inappropriate communications to federal judges, U.S.
25 Attorneys, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSA) increased
26 dramatically over several years, growing from 592 in fiscal year
27 (FY) 2003 to 1,278 in FY 2008. Overall, during this 6-year period,
28 there were 5,744 threats directed at these federal officials; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Threats and inappropriate communications to protected
30 persons increased to 4,449 in FY 2019, and

31 **WHEREAS**, The United States Marshals Service (USMS) has
32 responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of the more than
33 2,700 sitting federal judges, 28 U.S.C. § 564; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Providing additional protection for judicial security in the
35 cyber realm, including, with the authorization of the protected
36 personnel, the comprehensive removal of personal addresses and
37 personal and family photos is one security measure that would
38 make locating an individual via the internet more difficult to
39 accomplish; now, therefore,

40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
42 *Jersey:*

43
44 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully
45 petitions the Congress and President to enact legislation that
46 provides additional protection for judicial security in any manner

1 deemed appropriate including measures for protection of personal
2 information and home and cyber security and funding to address
3 these goals.

4
5 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of the
6 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to
7 the President and Vice-President of the United States, the Majority
8 and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
9 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and
10 each member of the United States Congress elected from the State
11 of New Jersey.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This Assembly resolution respectfully petitions the federal
17 government to provide additional protection for judicial security. A
18 July 2020 incident involving a fatal attack at the home of United
19 States District Court Judge Esther Salas, which resulted in the death
20 of the judge's son and critical injury to the judge's husband,
21 highlights the risks to personal security faced by judges outside of
22 court facilities. Since 1979, four federal judges have been killed,
23 three of which occurred in or near the judge's own residences, and
24 other attempts, like the attack at the home of Judge Salas and Judge
25 Joan Lefkow of the United States District Court for the Northern
26 District of Illinois in 2005, resulting in the death of family
27 members.

28 Federal judges must make judicial decisions that can profoundly
29 impact the lives of persons appearing before them, generating
30 strong, emotional and occasionally violent reaction. While the
31 federal government cannot eliminate all risks faced by federal
32 judges in the performance of judicial duties, the federal government
33 should enhance the protections for judges with an emphasis on risks
34 outside federal facilities, similar to the \$12 million Congress
35 approved to fund the installation and upkeep of home security
36 systems for federal judges by the United States Marshals Service
37 (USMS) in 2005 following the murder of Judge Lefkow's family
38 members.