

SENATE, No. 1484

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator LORETTA WEINBERG
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Amends “Law Against Discrimination” to include crime victims as protected status.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning victims of crime and amending P.L.1945,
2 c.169.

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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. Section 4 of P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-4) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 4. a. All persons shall have the opportunity to obtain
10 employment, and to obtain all the accommodations, advantages,
11 facilities, and privileges of any place of public accommodation,
12 publicly assisted housing accommodation, and other real property
13 without discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin,
14 ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation,
15 familial status, disability, liability for service in the Armed Forces
16 of the United States, nationality, sex, gender identity or expression
17 **[or]**, source of lawful income used for rental or mortgage
18 payments, or crime victim status subject only to conditions and
19 limitations applicable alike to all persons. This opportunity is
20 recognized as and declared to be a civil right.

21 b. For the purposes of this section, “crime victim status” shall
22 include a victim as defined in section 4 of P.L.1985, c.249
23 (C.52:4B-37) and a victim of domestic violence as defined in
24 subsection d. of section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).
25 (cf: P.L.2017, c.184, s.1)

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill adds crime victim as a protected status under this State’s
33 “Law Against Discrimination.”

34 As defined under the bill, “crime victim status” includes a
35 victim defined in the Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights as: 1) a person
36 who suffers personal, physical, or psychological injury or death or
37 incurs loss of or injury to personal or real property as a result of a
38 crime committed by an adult, or an act of delinquency that would
39 constitute a crime if committed by an adult, against that person; and
40 2) a spouse, parent, legal guardian, grandparent, child, sibling,
41 domestic partner or civil union partner of the decedent in the case of
42 a criminal homicide or act of juvenile delinquency that would
43 constitute a criminal homicide if committed by an adult. The term
44 also includes a victim defined in the "Prevention of Domestic
45 Violence Act of 1991," as: 1) a person protected under the act who

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.

1 is 18 years of age or older or who is an emancipated minor and who
2 has been subjected to domestic violence by a spouse, former spouse,
3 or any other person who is a present household member or was at
4 any time a household member; 2) any person, regardless of age,
5 who has been subjected to domestic violence by a person with
6 whom the victim has a child in common, or with whom the victim
7 anticipates having a child in common, if one of the parties is
8 pregnant; and 3) any person who has been subjected to domestic
9 violence by a person with whom the victim has had a dating
10 relationship.

11 Discrimination in the workplace and in public and private
12 housing has become an additional burden crime victims bear as a
13 result of their victimization. Victims of homicide, sexual offenses,
14 and domestic violence who are required to cooperate with law
15 enforcement in prosecuting the defendant often experience adverse
16 employment treatment, including termination. Victims also have
17 been subject to eviction when a landlord discovers they have been
18 involved in a violent crime.