

**SENATE, No. 2305**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED APRIL 9, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires notification of certain domestic violence victims through the Victim Information and Notification Everyday System (VINE).

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence and amending and  
2 supplementing P.L.1994, c.137.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1994, c.137 (C.2C:25-26.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
10 contrary, whenever a defendant charged with a crime or an offense  
11 involving domestic violence is released from custody the  
12 prosecuting agency shall notify the victim.

13 b. Notification shall also be given to a victim on whose behalf  
14 a final restraining order, temporary restraining order or protective  
15 order has been entered when the status of the person who is the  
16 subject of the order involving domestic violence has changed,  
17 including but not limited to, when the person is released from  
18 custody, discharged or transferred from custody for violation of a  
19 restraining order or for any crime or offense or when the defendant  
20 has been released on bail for violation of a restraining order or for  
21 any crime or offense.

22 c. Such notification shall be automatic and provided through  
23 the Statewide Victim Information and Notification Everyday  
24 System (VINE).

25 d. The victim's location shall remain confidential and shall not  
26 appear on any documents or records to which the defendant shall  
27 have access.

28 (cf: P.L.1994, c.137, s.1)

29  
30 2. (New section) The Attorney General shall maintain an  
31 automatic notification system to be known as the "Victim  
32 Information and Notification Everyday System (VINE)" to provide  
33 custody status of any defendant charged with a crime or an offense  
34 involving domestic violence.

35  
36 3. (New section) The Attorney General, pursuant to the  
37 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
38 seq.), may adopt rules, regulations and guidelines to effectuate the  
39 purposes of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
40 this bill).

41  
42 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### 43 44 STATEMENT

45  
46 Currently, the Attorney General operates the Victim Information  
47 and Notification Everyday System (VINE) pursuant to Attorney  
48 General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2005-5. Under the VINE

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 system, crime victims are notified when a defendant is released  
2 from custody. The bill would expand the use of the VINE system to  
3 include domestic violence victims on whose behalf a restraining  
4 order has been entered.

5 Under current law, N.J.S.A.2C:25-26.1 requires the prosecutor to  
6 notify the victim when a defendant charged with a crime or offense  
7 involving domestic violence is released from custody.

8 Under the bill, this section of law would also provide for  
9 notification to a victim on whose behalf a final or temporary  
10 restraining order or protective order has been entered when the  
11 status of the person subject to the domestic violence restraining  
12 order has changed, including but not limited to, when the person is  
13 released from custody, discharged or transferred from custody or  
14 released on bail for a violation of a restraining order or for any  
15 crime or offense.

16 The bill also provides that the victim's location would remain  
17 confidential and not appear on any documents or records to which  
18 the defendant would have access.