

**SENATE, No. 3147**

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

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator VIN GOPAL**  
**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises definition of domestic violence to include psychological abuse and economic abuse.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence and amending  
2 P.L.1991, c.261.

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

6  
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 3. As used in this act:

10 a. "Domestic violence" means the occurrence of one or more of  
11 the following acts inflicted upon a person protected under this act  
12 by an adult or an emancipated minor:

- 13 (1) Homicide, N.J.S.2C:11-1 et seq.;
- 14 (2) Assault, N.J.S.2C:12-1;
- 15 (3) Terroristic threats, N.J.S.2C:12-3;
- 16 (4) Kidnapping, N.J.S.2C:13-1;
- 17 (5) Criminal restraint, N.J.S.2C:13-2;
- 18 (6) False imprisonment, N.J.S.2C:13-3;
- 19 (7) Sexual assault, N.J.S.2C:14-2;
- 20 (8) Criminal sexual contact, N.J.S.2C:14-3;
- 21 (9) Lewdness, N.J.S.2C:14-4;
- 22 (10) Criminal mischief, N.J.S.2C:17-3;
- 23 (11) Burglary, N.J.S.2C:18-2;
- 24 (12) Criminal trespass, N.J.S.2C:18-3;
- 25 (13) Harassment, N.J.S.2C:33-4;
- 26 (14) Stalking, P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10) ;
- 27 (15) Criminal coercion, N.J.S.2C:13-5;
- 28 (16) Robbery, N.J.S.2C:15-1;
- 29 (17) Contempt of a domestic violence order pursuant to
- 30 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:29-9 that constitutes a crime or disorderly
- 31 persons offense;
- 32 (18) Any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily
- 33 injury to a person protected under the "Prevention of Domestic
- 34 Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.);
- 35 (19) Cyber-harassment, P.L.2013, c.272 (C.2C:33-4.1);
- 36 (20) Any other offense involving psychological abuse that
- 37 causes fear or serious alarm or distress that has a substantial adverse
- 38 impact on a person's daily activities; or
- 39 (21) Economic abuse. As used in this paragraph, "economic
- 40 abuse" means any behavior that has a substantial adverse effect on
- 41 the ability of a person protected under this act to: (a) acquire, use,
- 42 or maintain money or other property, or (b) obtain goods or
- 43 services.

44 When one or more of these acts is inflicted by an unemancipated  
45 minor upon a person protected under this act, the occurrence shall  
46 not constitute "domestic violence," but may be the basis for the

**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 filing of a petition or complaint pursuant to the provisions of  
2 section 11 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-30).

3 b. "Law enforcement agency" means a department, division,  
4 bureau, commission, board or other authority of the State or of any  
5 political subdivision thereof which employs law enforcement  
6 officers.

7 c. "Law enforcement officer" means a person whose public  
8 duties include the power to act as an officer for the detection,  
9 apprehension, arrest and conviction of offenders against the laws of  
10 this State.

11 d. "Victim of domestic violence" means a person protected  
12 under this act and shall include any person who is 18 years of age or  
13 older or who is an emancipated minor and who has been subjected  
14 to domestic violence by a spouse, former spouse, or any other  
15 person who is a present household member or was at any time a  
16 household member. "Victim of domestic violence" also includes  
17 any person, regardless of age, who has been subjected to domestic  
18 violence by a person with whom the victim has a child in common,  
19 or with whom the victim anticipates having a child in common, if  
20 one of the parties is pregnant. "Victim of domestic violence" also  
21 includes any person who has been subjected to domestic violence  
22 by a person with whom the victim has had a dating relationship.

23 e. "Emancipated minor" means a person who is under 18 years  
24 of age but who has been married, has entered military service, has a  
25 child or is pregnant or has been previously declared by a court or an  
26 administrative agency to be emancipated.

27 (cf: P.L.2016, c.77, s.1)

28  
29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

### 30 31 STATEMENT

32  
33 This bill revises the definition of domestic violence to include  
34 psychological abuse and economic abuse.

35 Under the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,"  
36 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.) "domestic violence" means the  
37 occurrence of one or more of the enumerated acts set forth in  
38 section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) upon a person protected  
39 under the act. The bill would add the following enumerated acts to  
40 the statute:

41 (1) Any other offense involving psychological abuse that causes  
42 fear or serious alarm or distress that has a substantial adverse  
43 impact on a person's daily activities; and

44 (2) Economic abuse, defined as any behavior that has a  
45 substantial adverse effect on the ability of a person protected under  
46 the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991" to: (a) acquire,  
47 use, or maintain money or other property, or (b) obtain goods or  
48 services.