

SENATE, No. 3668

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 26, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Allows county and municipal police departments to establish designated safe areas for Internet purchase transactions; establishes public awareness campaign.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning law enforcement and supplementing Title 40A
2 of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

6
7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Classified advertisement website” means an Internet website
9 that allows individuals to post items for sale or acquisition.

10 “Designated safe area” means an area on municipal police
11 department property that shall be designated by the chief law
12 enforcement officer to be used by members of the public to execute
13 an Internet sales transaction.

14 “Internet sales transaction” means an in-person exchange of an
15 item that was offered for sale or acquisition on a classified
16 advertisement website and in which the parties to the exchange
17 agree to meet at a designated safe area.

18 b. The chief law enforcement officer of each municipal police
19 department may establish a designated safe area which may be used
20 by members of the public to conduct Internet sales transactions.
21 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the municipal police
22 department may install a video camera capable of recording a clear
23 image of the designated safe area at all times the area is made
24 available to the public.

25 c. A municipal police department or member of the department
26 shall not be responsible for regulating Internet sales transactions
27 conducted in the designated safe areas. A municipal police
28 department or member of the department acting in accordance with
29 official duties shall not be civilly liable for crimes or offenses
30 committed by participants to an Internet sales transaction.

31 d. A municipal police department that establishes a designated
32 safe area pursuant to this section may conduct a public awareness
33 campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available resources,
34 to inform the public about the designated safe area established on
35 the municipal police department’s property. The public awareness
36 campaign may include, but not be limited to, safety tips to decrease
37 the risk of crime when engaging in Internet sales transactions.

38
39 2. a. As used in this section:

40 “Classified advertisement website” means an Internet website
41 that allows individuals to post items for sale or acquisition.

42 “Designated safe area” means an area that the chief law
43 enforcement officer designates on county police department
44 property that shall be used by members of the public to execute an
45 Internet sales transaction.

46 “Internet sales transaction” means an in-person exchange of an
47 item that was offered for sale on a classified advertisement website

1 and in which the parties to the exchange agree to meet at a
2 designated safe area.

3 b. The chief law enforcement officer of each county police
4 department may establish a designated safe area which may be used
5 by members of the public to conduct Internet sales transactions.
6 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the county police
7 department may install a video camera capable of recording a clear
8 image of the designated safe area at all times the area is made
9 available to the public.

10 c. A county police department or member of the department
11 shall not be responsible for regulating Internet sales transactions
12 conducted in the designated safe areas. A county police department
13 or member of the department acting in accordance with official
14 duties shall not be civilly liable for crimes or offenses committed by
15 participants to an Internet sales transaction.

16 d. A county police department that establishes a designated
17 safe area pursuant to this section may conduct a public awareness
18 campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available resources,
19 to inform the public about the designated safe area established on
20 the county police department's property. The public awareness
21 campaign may include, but not be limited to, safety tips to decrease
22 the risk of crime when engaging in Internet sales transactions.

23
24 3. The Attorney General shall notify the chief law enforcement
25 officer of each municipal and county police department that the
26 department is permitted to establish a designated safe area pursuant
27 to sections 1 and 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
28 the Legislature as this bill).

29
30 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
31 next following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill allows municipal and county police departments to
37 establish designated safe areas, which may be used by members of the
38 public to conduct sales transactions for items listed on classified
39 websites, such as craigslist.

40 For the purpose of ensuring public safety, the bill allows municipal
41 and county police departments to install a video camera capable of
42 recording a clear image of the designated safe area at all times the area
43 is made available to the public. The bill provides that local police
44 departments and their members would not be responsible for
45 regulating the sales transactions or be civilly liable for crimes or
46 offenses committed by participants to the sales transactions. Under the
47 bill, county and municipal police departments are allowed to conduct a
48 public awareness campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other

1 available resources, to inform the general public about designated safe
2 areas on their department's property. The public awareness campaign
3 may include safety tips to decrease the risk of crime when engaging in
4 Internet sales transactions.

5 In addition, the bill requires the Attorney General to notify chief
6 law enforcement officers that they are permitted to establish a
7 designated safe area on municipal and county police department
8 property.