

**SENATE, No. 3712**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2023

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

**SYNOPSIS**

“Stephanie’s Law”; Requires AOC to establish publicly-accessible domestic violence registry; requires law enforcement officer to search State’s domestic violence registries when conducting arrest.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ACT** concerning domestic violence and supplementing Title 2C  
2       of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6  
7       1.   a.   The Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction  
8       with the Attorney General, shall develop and maintain a publicly-  
9       accessible domestic violence Internet registry of any person in this  
10      State who:

11       (1) has been convicted of a crime or offense involving domestic  
12      violence as defined in subsection a. of section 3 of  
13      P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19); or

14       (2) has had a final restraining order issued against them pursuant  
15      to the provisions of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of  
16      1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.); or

17       (3) has committed contempt of a temporary or final restraining  
18      order entered pursuant to the provisions of the "Prevention of  
19      Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
20      (C.2C:25-17 et al.).

21      b.   The Internet registry established pursuant to this section  
22      shall be separate from the domestic violence central registry  
23      established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1999, c.421 (C.2C:25-34).

24      c.   The Internet registry shall contain the following information  
25      for any person to be included in the registry:

26       (1) the person's name and any aliases the person has used or  
27      under which the person may be or may have been known;

28       (2) a brief description of any crime or offense involving  
29      domestic violence for which the person was convicted; the date and  
30      location of each disposition; and a general description of the  
31      person's modus operandi, if applicable;

32       (3) the person's age, race, gender, date of birth, height, weight,  
33      hair, eye color, and any distinguishing scars or tattoos;

34       (4) a photograph of the person and the date on which the  
35      photograph was entered into the registry;

36       (5) the make, model, color, year, and license plate number of any  
37      vehicle operated by the person; and

38       (6) the person's last known address.

39      d.   A person whose name is erroneously included in the registry  
40      established pursuant to this section may petition the Administrative  
41      Office of the Courts for removal of the person's name. The  
42      Administrative Office of the Courts shall remove the person's name  
43      from the registry in response to the petition if the person:

44       (1) has not had a final domestic violence restraining order  
45      entered against the person; or

46       (2) has not been found guilty of contempt of a temporary or  
47      final restraining order entered pursuant to the provisions of the

1 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261  
2 (C.2C:25-17 et al.); or

3 (3) has not been found guilty of a crime or offense involving  
4 domestic violence.

5 e. Within five days of a change of address, a person whose  
6 name is included in the Internet registry shall provide the  
7 Administrative Office of the Courts with the new address.

8 f. On the website through which a person may search the  
9 Internet registry, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall  
10 include the following information regarding:

11 (1) the manner in which a person may petition the Administrative  
12 Office of the Courts for removal of their name from the registry;

13 (2) the circumstances under which the Administrative Office of  
14 the Courts would grant the petition; and

15 (3) the manner in which a person may provide an updated  
16 address.

17  
18 2. a. A law enforcement officer conducting an arrest shall  
19 determine if any domestic violence restraining order has been  
20 entered against the arrested person. The determination shall include  
21 a search of the central registry created pursuant to section 1 of  
22 P.L.1999, c.421 (C.2C:25-34) and section 1 of  
23 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

24 b. The Attorney General may promulgate rules and regulations,  
25 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
26 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the  
27 purposes of this act.

28  
29 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
30 month next following the date of enactment.

### 31 32 33 STATEMENT

34  
35 This bill establishes "Stephanie's Law," to require the  
36 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in conjunction with the  
37 Attorney General, to develop and maintain a publicly-accessible  
38 domestic violence Internet registry, and require law enforcement  
39 officers to search the State's domestic violence registries upon  
40 arresting a person. This registry established under the bill is to be  
41 separate from the domestic violence central registry maintained by  
42 the AOC pursuant to N.J.S.A.2C:25-34, which is not accessible to  
43 the public.

44 Under the bill, the public is to be able to access the registry to  
45 obtain all available information concerning any person who has  
46 been convicted of a crime or offense involving domestic violence;  
47 has had a final domestic violence restraining order issued against  
48 them; or has committed contempt of a temporary or final domestic

1 violence restraining order. The Internet registry is to contain the  
2 following information for any person to be included in the registry:  
3 (1) the person's name and any aliases the person has used or under  
4 which the person may be or may have been known; (2) a brief  
5 description of any crime or offense involving domestic violence for  
6 which the person was convicted; the date and location of each  
7 disposition; and a general description of the person's modus  
8 operandi, if applicable; (3) the person's age, race, gender, date of  
9 birth, height, weight, hair, eye color, and any distinguishing scars or  
10 tattoos; (4) a photograph of the person and the date on which the  
11 photograph was entered into the registry; (5) the make, model,  
12 color, year, and license plate number of any vehicle operated by the  
13 person; (6) and the person's last known address.

14 A person whose name is erroneously included in the registry  
15 established under the bill may petition the AOC for removal of the  
16 person's name. The AOC is required to remove the person's name  
17 from the registry if the person has not had a final domestic violence  
18 restraining order entered against them, has not been found guilty of  
19 contempt of a temporary or final domestic violence restraining  
20 order, or has not been found guilty of a crime or offense involving  
21 domestic violence. Within five days of a change of address, a  
22 person whose name is included in the registry is required provide  
23 the AOC with the new address.

24 On the website through which a person may search the registry  
25 established under the bill, the AOC is required to include  
26 information regarding: the manner in which a person may petition  
27 the AOC to remove their name; the circumstances under which the  
28 AOC would grant a petition to remove their name; and the manner  
29 in which a person may provide an updated address to the AOC.

30 In addition, the provisions of the bill require a law enforcement  
31 officer to determine, upon an arrest, if there is a domestic violence  
32 restraining order entered against the person. This determination is  
33 to include a search of the central domestic violence registry  
34 maintained by the AOC established pursuant to N.J.S.A.2C:25-34,  
35 as well as the publicly-accessible central registry established under  
36 the bill.

37 This bill, designated "Stephanie's Law," is named after a  
38 domestic violence victim, Stephanie Nicole Parze, who was  
39 murdered by her ex-boyfriend. The Stephanie Nicole Parze  
40 Foundation was created in her memory to provide support to  
41 victims of domestic violence. This bill, which is intended to  
42 provide additional protections for victims of domestic violence, is  
43 named in her honor.