

ASSEMBLY, No. 5642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Minor Protection Order Act of 2026”; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “Minor Protection Order Act of 2026,”
2 supplementing Title 2A of the New Jersey Statutes, amending
3 various parts of the statutory law, and making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. (New section) This act shall be known and may be cited as
9 the “Minor Protection Order Act of 2026.”
10

11 2. (New section) a. A parent or guardian of a minor who is at
12 least 14 years of age and alleges to be the victim of conduct set
13 forth in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection may file an
14 application with the Superior Court pursuant to the Rules of Court
15 alleging the commission of this conduct and seeking a minor
16 protection order against a minor respondent who is at least 14 years
17 of age.

18 (1) In cases where there is a dating or domestic relationship,
19 including a current or former dating relationship, the minor
20 respondent committed or attempted to commit a delinquent act
21 which if committed by an adult would constitute homicide pursuant
22 to N.J.S.2C:11-1 et seq., assault pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-1,
23 terroristic threats pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-3, kidnapping pursuant to
24 N.J.S.2C:13-1, criminal restraint pursuant to N.J.S.2C:13-2, false
25 imprisonment pursuant to N.J.S.2C:13-3, sexual assault pursuant to
26 N.J.S.2C:14-2, criminal sexual contact pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-3,
27 lewdness pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-4, criminal mischief pursuant to
28 N.J.S.2C:17-3, burglary pursuant to N.J.S.2C:18-2, criminal
29 trespass pursuant to N.J.S.2C:18-3, harassment pursuant to
30 N.J.S.2C:33-4, stalking pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.209
31 (C.2C:12-10), criminal coercion pursuant to N.J.S.2C:13-5, robbery
32 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:15-1, cyber-harassment pursuant to section 1
33 of P.L.2013, c.272 (C.2C:33-4.1), or any other crime involving risk
34 of death or serious bodily injury to a person who qualifies for relief.

35 When it is alleged that the conduct set forth in this paragraph has
36 been committed against a minor by a parent, guardian, or other
37 person having care, custody and control of that child as defined in
38 R.S.9:6-2 or by a sibling, an applicant seeking a minor protection
39 order shall not proceed under the provisions of
40 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
41 but shall report the incident to the Department of Children and
42 Families for appropriate action.

43 (2) In cases where there is a non-domestic relationship and there
44 is no dating or former dating relationship, nonconsensual sexual
45 contact, sexual penetration, or lewdness, or any attempt at this

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 conduct, or stalking or cyber-harassment as those terms are defined
2 in subsection h. of this section.

3 b. The application shall be filed with the Superior Court during
4 regular court hours. The application shall be filed by a parent or
5 legal guardian on behalf of the minor alleged victim. The
6 application shall set forth the following information to the extent
7 the information is known to the alleged victim:

8 (1) the name, address, and date of birth of the respondent;

9 (2) the name and address of the respondent's parent or guardian
10 and if the respondent is in the custody of some other person, the
11 name and address of the custodian;

12 (3) the date, time, manner, and place of the acts alleged as the
13 basis of the application;

14 (4) a citation of the law allegedly violated by the respondent; and

15 (5) the signature of the alleged victim.

16 c. An application for a temporary minor protection order may
17 be filed in the county where the minor alleged victim who is
18 seeking the minor protection order resides; the county where the
19 alleged conduct occurred; or the county where the respondent
20 resides.

21 d. Venue shall remain in the county where the temporary minor
22 protection order is issued, unless there is good cause to transfer the
23 case to the county where the minor respondent resides.

24 e. Every application made pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
25 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be docketed in the
26 Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part and designated
27 under a distinct case type.

28 f. An applicant may seek a minor protection order pursuant to
29 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
30 and the court may issue a minor protection order regardless of
31 whether delinquency charges based on the incident were filed and
32 regardless of the disposition of the charges. In cases where
33 delinquency charges arising from the incident have been filed, the
34 prosecutor: (1) shall advise the victim of the right to apply for a
35 temporary minor protection order pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
36 (pending before the Legislature as this bill); or (2) may make an
37 appropriate application to the court for a no contact order.

38 g. The filing of an application pursuant to
39 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
40 shall not prevent the filing of a delinquency complaint or the
41 institution or maintenance of a juvenile delinquency proceeding
42 based on the same conduct.

43 h. As used in this section:

44 "Cause a reasonable person to fear" means to cause fear which a
45 reasonable victim, similarly situated, would have under the
46 circumstances.

47 "Cyber-harassment" means conduct that occurs while making
48 one or more communications in an online capacity via any

1 electronic device or through a social networking site and with the
2 purpose to harass another, that involves: threatening to inflict injury
3 or physical harm to any person or the property of any person;
4 knowingly sending, posting, commenting, requesting, suggesting, or
5 proposing any lewd, indecent, or obscene material to or about a
6 person with the intent to emotionally harm a reasonable person or
7 place a reasonable person in fear of physical or emotional harm to
8 the reasonable person; or threatening to commit any crime against a
9 person or the person's property.

10 "Emotional distress" means significant mental suffering or
11 distress.

12 "Intimate parts" means the following body parts: sexual organs,
13 genital area, anal area, inner thigh, groin, buttock, or breast of a
14 person.

15 "Lewdness" means the exposing of the genitals for the purpose
16 of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of the actor or of any
17 other person.

18 "Repeatedly" means on two or more occasions.

19 "Sexual contact" means an intentional touching by the victim or
20 actor, either directly or through clothing, of the victim's or actor's
21 intimate parts for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim
22 or sexually arousing or sexually gratifying the actor.

23 "Sexual penetration" means vaginal intercourse, cunnilingus,
24 fellatio, or anal intercourse between persons or insertion of the
25 hand, finger, or object into the anus or vagina either by the actor or
26 upon the actor's instruction.

27 "Stalking" means purposefully or knowingly engaging in a
28 course of conduct directed at or toward a person that would cause a
29 reasonable person to fear for the reasonable person's own safety or
30 the safety of a third person, or suffer other emotional distress,
31 because the conduct involves: repeatedly maintaining a visual or
32 physical proximity to a person; directly, indirectly, or through third
33 parties, by any action, method, device, or means, following,
34 monitoring, observing, surveilling, threatening, or communicating
35 to or about a person, or interfering with a person's property;
36 repeatedly committing harassment against a person; or repeatedly
37 conveying, or causing to be conveyed, verbal or written threats or
38 threats conveyed by any other means of communication or threats
39 implied by conduct or a combination thereof directed at or towards
40 a person.

41
42 3. (New section) a. (1) An applicant may seek emergency, ex
43 parte relief in the form of a temporary minor protection order. A
44 judge of the Superior Court may enter an emergency ex parte order
45 when necessary to protect the safety and well-being of an alleged
46 victim on whose behalf the relief is sought. The court shall, upon
47 consideration of the application, order emergency ex parte relief in
48 the form of a temporary minor protection order if the court

1 determines that the applicant is a victim of conduct set forth in
2 paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection a. of section 2 of
3 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
4 and qualifies for relief pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.
5) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

6 (2) The court may issue a temporary minor protection order upon
7 sworn testimony of the applicant or an application of an alleged
8 victim who is not physically present, pursuant to the Rules of Court,
9 or by a person who represents an alleged victim who is physically
10 or mentally incapable of personally filing.

11 (3) The court shall render a decision on the application and issue
12 a temporary minor protection order, where appropriate, in an
13 expedited manner. An order for emergency, ex parte relief shall be
14 granted upon good cause shown and shall remain in effect until a
15 judge of the Superior Court issues a further order.

16 b. An order granting emergency relief, together with the
17 complaint, shall immediately be forwarded to the appropriate law
18 enforcement agency for service on the respondent and the parent or
19 legal guardian of the respondent, and to the police of the
20 municipality in which the victim resides or is sheltered, and shall
21 immediately be served upon the respondent and the parent or
22 guardian of the respondent along with a copy of the translated
23 order, if applicable, by the police, except that an order issued during
24 regular court hours may be forwarded to the sheriff for immediate
25 service upon the respondent and the parent or guardian of the
26 respondent in accordance with the Rules of Court. If personal
27 service cannot be affected upon the respondent and the parent or
28 legal guardian of the respondent, the court may order other
29 appropriate substituted service. The alleged victim shall not be
30 asked or required to serve any order on the respondent or the parent
31 or legal guardian of the respondent. The court shall also provide a
32 copy of the temporary minor protection order to the school attended
33 by the victim and the school attended by the respondent.

34
35 4. (New section) a. Following the entry of a temporary minor
36 protection order, a hearing for a final minor protection order shall
37 be held in the Superior Court within 10 business days of the filing
38 of the application for the temporary minor protection order pursuant
39 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
40 as this bill) in the county where the temporary minor protection
41 order was issued, unless good cause is shown for the hearing to be
42 held elsewhere. A copy of the application shall be served on the
43 respondent and the parent or legal guardian of the respondent in
44 conformity with the Rules of Court. A parent or legal guardian of
45 both the minor victim and minor respondent shall be present at the
46 hearing. The court may, in its discretion, appoint a guardian ad
47 litem for either party when the court deems it necessary or
48 appropriate.

1 b. At the hearing, the standard for proving the allegations made
2 in the application for a final minor protection order shall be a
3 preponderance of the evidence. The court shall consider, at a
4 minimum, the following factors:

5 (1) the occurrence of one or more acts set forth in paragraph (1)
6 or (2) of subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. c. (C.) (pending
7 before the Legislature as this bill) against the alleged victim;

8 (2) any prior history of or threats to commit one or more acts set
9 forth in in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.
10 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) against
11 the alleged victim; and

12 (3) the future risk to the safety or well-being of the alleged
13 victim.

14 c. The court shall issue a final minor protection order only after
15 a finding or an admission is made that the respondent committed an
16 act set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection a. of section 2 of
17 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
18 against the alleged victim.

19 d. A final minor protection order may include any relief the
20 court deems necessary to protect the victim including, but not
21 limited to:

22 (1) restraining the respondent from committing any further acts
23 of violence against the victim or any prohibited conduct;

24 (2) prohibiting all forms of contact with the victim, whether
25 direct or indirect, including in-person, telephonic, electronic, or
26 third-party communications;

27 (3) restricting the respondent from entering specified locations,
28 including the victim's residence, school, workplace, or other
29 locations regularly frequented by the victim;

30 (4) prohibiting the respondent from stalking, harassing, or
31 threatening the victim;

32 (5) ordering the respondent to undergo counseling, treatment, or
33 an evaluation, including psychological, psychiatric, or substance
34 abuse assessments; and

35 (6) prohibiting or limiting the respondent's use of social media.

36 e. A final minor protection order issued pursuant to this section
37 shall:

38 (1) prohibit the respondent from purchasing, owning, possessing,
39 accessing, or controlling firearms or weapons;

40 (2) require the immediate surrender of any firearms or weapons
41 in the respondent's possession; and

42 (3) include any other safeguards, as determined appropriate by
43 the court.

44 A law enforcement officer shall accompany the respondent and
45 the parent or legal guardian of the respondent, or may proceed
46 without the respondent and the parent or legal guardian of the
47 respondent if necessary, to a location where the judge has
48 reasonable cause to believe any firearm or other weapon belonging

1 to or in the possession of the respondent is located, to ensure that
2 the respondent does not gain access to any firearm or other weapon,
3 and that the firearm or other weapon is appropriately surrendered in
4 accordance with the order.

5 f. A copy of the final minor protection order shall immediately
6 be forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency for service
7 on the respondent and the parent or guardian of the respondent, and
8 to the police of the municipality in which the victim resides or is
9 sheltered, and shall immediately be served upon the respondent and
10 the parent or guardian of the respondent along with a copy of the
11 translated order, if applicable, by the police, except that an order
12 issued during regular court hours may be forwarded to the sheriff
13 for immediate service upon the respondent and the parent or
14 guardian of the respondent in accordance with the Rules of Court.
15 If personal service cannot be affected upon the respondent and the
16 parent or guardian of the respondent, the court may order other
17 appropriate substituted service. The alleged victim shall not be
18 asked or required to serve any order on the respondent or the parent
19 of guardian of the respondent. The court shall also provide a copy
20 of the final minor protection order to the school attended by the
21 victim and the school attended by the respondent.

22 g. (1) A final minor protection order issued pursuant to this
23 section shall remain in effect for a period of six months to one year.

24 (2) In cases where a final minor protection order is entered
25 against a respondent who is at least 17.5 years old when the order
26 was issued, the final minor protection order may remain in effect
27 until the respondent is 18.5 years of age.

28 h. Upon application to the court by the victim, the court may
29 extend the order in six-month increments until the respondent's
30 18th birthday if the court finds good cause for the continuation of
31 the order, including the continued risk to the safety or well-being of
32 the victim.

33 i. Either party may file a petition with the court to dissolve or
34 modify a final minor protection order. Upon application for
35 modification or dissolution of the final minor protection order by
36 the victim or the respondent, the court shall conduct a hearing to
37 consider whether a material change in circumstances has occurred
38 since the issuance of the final minor protection order which would
39 make its continued enforcement inequitable, oppressive, or unjust
40 taking into account the current status of the parties, including the
41 desire of the victim for the continuation of the final minor
42 protection order, the potential for contact between the parties, the
43 history of the respondent's violations of the minor protection order
44 or adjudications of delinquency, and any other factors that the court
45 may find relevant to protecting the safety and well-being of the
46 victim.

1 5. (New section) a. Any temporary or final minor protection
2 order issued pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
3 Legislature as this bill) shall be in effect throughout the State and
4 shall be enforced by all law enforcement officers.

5 b. A respondent's violation of a temporary or final minor
6 protection order issued pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
7 before the Legislature as this bill) shall constitute a crime or offense
8 under subsection f. of N.J.S.2C:29-9. Each order shall state that a
9 violation constitutes this crime or offense.

10 c. All temporary and final minor protection orders shall be
11 entered into the juvenile central registry.

12 d. A temporary minor protection order shall be removed from
13 the juvenile central registry upon dismissal of the order. A final
14 minor protection order shall be removed from the juvenile central
15 registry upon the respondent reaching the age of 18, provided that
16 the final minor protection order has been dissolved. In any case
17 where a final minor protection order remains in effect beyond the
18 respondent's 18th birthday, including under circumstances set forth
19 in paragraph (2) of subsection g. of section 4 of
20 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
21 the final minor protection order shall be removed from the juvenile
22 central registry upon dissolution of the order.

23
24 6. (New section) If a criminal or juvenile delinquency
25 complaint arising out of the same incident which is the subject
26 matter of an application for a minor protection order pursuant to
27 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
28 has been filed, testimony given by the victim or respondent in the
29 minor protection order matter shall not be used in a simultaneous or
30 subsequent criminal proceeding or juvenile delinquency proceeding
31 against the respondent, other than proceedings for contempt of a
32 minor protection order and where it would otherwise be admissible
33 hearsay under the rules of evidence that govern where a party is
34 unavailable.

35
36 7. (New section) a. The Division of Criminal Justice shall
37 develop and approve a training course and curriculum regarding the
38 provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
39 as this bill). The Division of Criminal Justice shall distribute the
40 curriculum to all local police agencies and county prosecutors. The
41 Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring that all law
42 enforcement officers and assistant county prosecutors have
43 completed the training, in accordance with standards and
44 procedures established by the Attorney General.

45 b. The Administrative Director of the Courts shall develop and
46 approve a training course and curriculum regarding the provisions
47 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
48 for all Superior Court judges responsible for issuing or denying

1 minor protection orders and any appropriate judicial personnel who
2 are involved with the intake and processing of applications for
3 minor protection orders. The Administrative Director of the Courts
4 shall be responsible for ensuring that these Superior Court judges
5 and judicial personnel have completed the training in accordance
6 with standards and procedures established by the Administrative
7 Director of the Courts.

8
9 8. N.J.S.2C:29-9 is amended to read as follows:

10 2C:29-9. Contempt. a. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2)
11 of this subsection, a person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree
12 if the person purposely or knowingly disobeys a judicial order or
13 protective order, pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1985, c.250 (C.2C:28-
14 5.1), or hinders, obstructs, or impedes the effectuation of a judicial
15 order or the exercise of jurisdiction over any person, thing, or
16 controversy by a court, administrative body, or investigative entity,
17 or purposely or knowingly violates a condition to avoid all contact
18 with an alleged victim or a condition of home detention with or
19 without the use of an approved electronic monitoring device,
20 ordered pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph (1) or
21 subparagraph (k) of paragraph (2) of subsection b. of section 3 of
22 P.L.2014, c.31 (C.2A:162-17), when the conduct which constitutes
23 the violation could also constitute a crime or a disorderly persons
24 offense.

25 (2) In all other cases a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
26 offense if that person purposely or knowingly violates a condition
27 to avoid contact with an alleged victim or a condition of home
28 detention with or without the use of an approved electronic
29 monitoring device.

30 b. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a
31 person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if that person
32 purposely or knowingly violates any provision in an order entered
33 under the provisions of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act
34 of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.) or an order entered
35 under the provisions of a substantially similar statute under the laws
36 of another state or the United States when the conduct which
37 constitutes the violation could also constitute a crime or a
38 disorderly persons offense.

39 Orders entered pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (8), and (9) of
40 subsection b. of section 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) or
41 substantially similar orders entered under the laws of another state
42 or the United States shall be excluded from the provisions of this
43 paragraph.

44 (2) In all other cases a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
45 offense if that person purposely or knowingly violates an order
46 entered under the provisions of the "Prevention of Domestic
47 Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.) or an

1 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
2 under the laws of another state or the United States.

3 Orders entered pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (8), and (9) of
4 subsection b. of section 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) or
5 substantially similar orders entered under the laws of another state
6 or the United States shall be excluded from the provisions of this
7 paragraph.

8 c. A person is guilty of a crime of the third degree if that
9 person purposely or knowingly violates any provision in an order
10 entered under the provisions of section 3 of P.L.1996, c.39
11 (C.2C:12-10.1) or section 2 of P.L.1999, c.47 (C.2C:12-10.2) or an
12 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
13 under the laws of another state or the United States when the
14 conduct which constitutes the violation could also constitute a
15 crime or a disorderly persons offense.

16 d. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a
17 person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if that person
18 purposely or knowingly violates any provision in an order entered
19 under the provisions of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.) or an
20 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
21 under the laws of another state or the United States when the
22 conduct which constitutes the violation could also constitute a
23 crime or a disorderly persons offense.

24 (2) In all other cases a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
25 offense if that person purposely or knowingly violates an order
26 entered under the provisions of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.)
27 or an order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar
28 statute under the laws of another state or the United States.

29 e. A person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if the
30 person purposely or knowingly violates any provision of an order
31 entered under the provisions of the "Extreme Risk Protective Order
32 Act of 2018," P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et al.) or an order entered
33 under the provisions of a substantially similar statute under the laws
34 of another state or the United States.

35 f. A person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if the
36 person purposely or knowingly violates any provision of a
37 temporary or final minor protection order entered pursuant to the
38 provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
39 as this bill) or an order entered pursuant to the provisions of a
40 substantially similar statute under the laws of another state or the
41 United States when the conduct which constitutes the violation
42 could also constitute a crime or disorderly persons offense.

43 In all other cases, a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
44 offense if the person purposely or knowingly violates any provision
45 of a temporary or final minor protection order entered pursuant to
46 the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
47 Legislature as this bill) or an order entered under the provisions of a

1 substantially similar statute under the laws of another state or the
2 United States.

3 As used in this section, "state" means a state of the United States,
4 the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
5 Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
6 jurisdiction of the United States. The term includes an Indian tribe
7 or band, or Alaskan native village, which is recognized by a federal
8 law or formally acknowledged by a state.

9 (cf: P.L.2023, c.46, s.1)

10

11 9. Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-14) is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 2. Application for Temporary Protective Order.

14 a. (1) Any person alleging to be a victim of nonconsensual sexual
15 contact, sexual penetration, or lewdness, or any attempt at such
16 conduct, or stalking or cyber-harassment, and who is not eligible for
17 a restraining order as a "victim of domestic violence" as defined by
18 the provisions of subsection d. of section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261
19 (C.2C:25-19), may, except as provided in subsection b. of this
20 section, file an application with the Superior Court pursuant to the
21 Rules of Court alleging the commission of such conduct or
22 attempted conduct and seeking a temporary protective order.

23 As used in this section and in sections 3, 4, and 8 of P.L.2015,
24 c.147 (C.2C:14-15, C.2C:14-16, and C.2C:14-20):

25 "Sexual contact" means an intentional touching by the victim or
26 actor, either directly or through clothing, of the victim's or actor's
27 intimate parts for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim
28 or sexually arousing or sexually gratifying the actor.

29 "Sexual penetration" means vaginal intercourse, cunnilingus,
30 fellatio or anal intercourse between persons or insertion of the hand,
31 finger or object into the anus or vagina either by the actor or upon
32 the actor's instruction.

33 "Lewdness" means the exposing of the genitals for the purpose
34 of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of the actor or of any
35 other person.

36 "Intimate parts" means the following body parts: sexual organs,
37 genital area, anal area, inner thigh, groin, buttock or breast of a
38 person.

39 "Stalking" means purposefully or knowingly engaging in a
40 course of conduct directed at or toward a person that would cause a
41 reasonable person to fear for the reasonable person's own safety or
42 the safety of a third person, or suffer other emotional distress,
43 because the conduct involves: repeatedly maintaining a visual or
44 physical proximity to a person; directly, indirectly, or through third
45 parties, by any action, method, device, or means, following,
46 monitoring, observing, surveilling, threatening, or communicating
47 to or about a person, or interfering with a person's property;
48 repeatedly committing harassment against a person; or repeatedly

1 conveying, or causing to be conveyed, verbal or written threats or
2 threats conveyed by any other means of communication or threats
3 implied by conduct or a combination thereof directed at or towards
4 a person.

5 "Repeatedly" means on two or more occasions.

6 "Emotional distress" means significant mental suffering or
7 distress.

8 "Cause a reasonable person to fear" means to cause fear which a
9 reasonable victim, similarly situated, would have under the
10 circumstances.

11 "Cyber-harassment" means conduct that occurs, while making
12 one or more communications in an online capacity via any
13 electronic device or through a social networking site and with the
14 purpose to harass another, that involves: threatening to inflict injury
15 or physical harm to any person or the property of any person;
16 knowingly sending, posting, commenting, requesting, suggesting, or
17 proposing any lewd, indecent, or obscene material to or about a
18 person with the intent to emotionally harm a reasonable person or
19 place a reasonable person in fear of physical or emotional harm to
20 the reasonable person; or threatening to commit any crime against a
21 person or the person's property.

22 (2) Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, an
23 application for relief under P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.) may
24 be filed by the alleged victim's parent or guardian on behalf of the
25 alleged victim in any case in which the alleged victim:

26 (a) is less than 18 years of age; or

27 (b) has a developmental disability as defined in section 3 of
28 P.L.1977, c.200 (C.5:5-44.4) or a mental disease or defect that
29 renders the alleged victim temporarily or permanently incapable of
30 understanding the nature of the alleged victim's conduct, including,
31 but not limited to, being incapable of providing consent, or of
32 understanding the nature of the alleged conduct that is the subject of
33 the application.

34 b. (1) When it is alleged that nonconsensual sexual contact,
35 sexual penetration, or lewdness, or any attempt at such conduct, or
36 stalking or cyber-harassment has been committed by an
37 unemancipated minor, an applicant seeking a protective order shall
38 not proceed under the provisions of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et
39 al.), but may seek a protective order and other relief under the "New
40 Jersey Code of Youth Justice," P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-20 et seq.)
41 by filing a complaint pursuant to the provisions of section 11 of
42 P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-30) or may seek a minor protection order
43 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
44 this bill).

45 (2) When it is alleged that nonconsensual sexual contact, sexual
46 penetration, or lewdness, or any attempt at such conduct, or stalking
47 or cyber-harassment has been committed against an unemancipated
48 minor by a parent, guardian, or other person having care, custody

1 and control of that child as defined in R.S.9:6-2, an applicant
2 seeking a protective order shall not proceed under the provisions of
3 P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.), but shall report the incident to
4 the Department of Children and Families for appropriate action.

5 c. (1) An applicant may seek a protective order pursuant to
6 P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.) and the court may issue such an
7 order regardless of whether criminal charges based on the incident
8 were filed and regardless of the disposition of any such charges.

9 (2) The filing of an application pursuant to this section shall not
10 prevent the filing of a criminal complaint, or the institution or
11 maintenance of a criminal prosecution based on the same act.

12 d. The court shall waive any requirement that the applicant's or
13 alleged victim's place of residence appear on the application.

14 e. An applicant may seek a protective order pursuant to
15 P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.) in a court having jurisdiction
16 over the place where the alleged conduct or attempted conduct
17 occurred, where the respondent resides, or where the alleged victim
18 resides or is sheltered.

19 f. No fees or other costs shall be assessed against an applicant
20 for seeking a protective order pursuant to P.L.2015, c.147
21 (C.2C:14-13 et al.).

22 (cf: P.L.2025, c.35, s.18)

23
24 10. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 3. As used in this act:

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

30 (1) Homicide N.J.S.2C:11-1 et seq.

31 (2) Assault N.J.S.2C:12-1

32 (3) Terroristic threats N.J.S.2C:12-3

33 (4) Kidnapping N.J.S.2C:13-1

34 (5) Criminal restraint N.J.S.2C:13-2

35 (6) False imprisonment N.J.S.2C:13-3

36 (7) Sexual assault N.J.S.2C:14-2

37 (8) Criminal sexual contact N.J.S.2C:14-3

38 (9) Lewdness N.J.S.2C:14-4

39 (10) Criminal mischief N.J.S.2C:17-3

40 (11) Burglary N.J.S.2C:18-2

41 (12) Criminal trespass N.J.S.2C:18-3

42 (13) Harassment N.J.S.2C:33-4

43 (14) Stalking P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10)

44 (15) Criminal coercion N.J.S.2C:13-5

45 (16) Robbery N.J.S.2C:15-1

46 (17) Contempt of a domestic violence order pursuant to
47 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:29-9 that constitutes a crime or disorderly
48 persons offense

1 (18) Any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily
2 injury to a person protected under the "Prevention of Domestic
3 Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.)

4 (19) Cyber-harassment P.L.2013, c.272 (C.2C:33-4.1)

5 When one or more of these acts is inflicted by an unemancipated
6 minor upon a person protected under this act, the occurrence shall
7 not constitute "domestic violence," but may be the basis for the
8 filing of a petition or complaint pursuant to the provisions of
9 section 11 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-30) or an application for a
10 minor protection order pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
11 before the Legislature as this bill).

12 b. "Law enforcement agency" means a department, division,
13 bureau, commission, board or other authority of the State or of any
14 political subdivision thereof which employs law enforcement
15 officers.

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

20 d. "Victim of domestic violence" means a person protected
21 under this act and shall include any person who is 18 years of age or
22 older or who is an emancipated minor and who has been subjected
23 to domestic violence by a spouse, former spouse, or any other
24 person who is a present household member or was at any time a
25 household member. "Victim of domestic violence" also includes
26 any person, regardless of age, who has been subjected to domestic
27 violence by a person with whom the victim has a child in common,
28 or with whom the victim anticipates having a child in common, if
29 one of the parties is pregnant. "Victim of domestic violence" also
30 includes any person who has been subjected to domestic violence
31 by a person with whom the victim has had a dating relationship.

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

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

37
38 11. Section 1 of P.L.1982, c.81 (C.2A:4A-70) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 1. County court intake services. a. Each county shall establish
41 a court intake service which shall have among its responsibilities
42 the screening of juvenile delinquency complaints **[and]**, juvenile-
43 family crisis referrals, and applications for minor protection orders
44 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
45 this bill). The intake service shall operate in compliance with
46 standards established by the Supreme Court, but in no instance shall
47 the standards for personnel employed as counselors be less than a
48 master's degree from an accredited institution in mental health or

1 social or behavioral science discipline including degrees in social
2 work, counseling, counseling psychology, mental health counseling
3 or education. Equivalent experience is acceptable when it consists
4 of a minimum of an associate's degree with a concentration in one
5 of the behavioral sciences and a minimum of five years' experience
6 working with troubled youth and their families or a bachelor's
7 degree in one of the behavioral sciences and two year's experience
8 working with troubled youth and their families. Intake personnel
9 should also receive training in drug and alcohol abuse.

10 b. The court intake service shall make arrangements for the
11 receipt of complaints, on a continuous basis, in situations where the
12 subject of the complaint is a juvenile, **[or]**, referrals through crisis
13 intervention units where a juvenile-family crisis may exist, or
14 applications for a minor protection order. It shall assist the court in
15 screening referrals for court intervention, making referrals to
16 appropriate agencies, reviewing and approving alternative living
17 arrangements as provided by law, determining that jurisdiction for
18 juvenile-family crisis proceedings may exist prior to filing a
19 petition, and in monitoring referrals for development and
20 implementation of family service plans. Every complaint **[or]**,
21 juvenile-family crisis petition, or application for a minor protection
22 order shall be reviewed by the court intake service unless otherwise
23 ordered by the court.

24 c. The court intake service shall have the responsibility for
25 monitoring, on a 24-hour a day, 7-day a week basis, the admission
26 of alleged delinquents to the detention or shelter care facilities and
27 no juvenile may be admitted to a detention or shelter care facility
28 without its approval.

29 d. The Supreme Court shall have the authority to issue rules
30 governing the duties, responsibilities, and practices of court intake
31 services as it deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act;
32 establish guidelines and procedures for the training of intake
33 services staff; establish reporting procedures to be followed by
34 court intake services in providing data for its evaluation; and
35 conduct, at least annually, an evaluation of all intake services.

36 (cf: P.L.1991, c.119, s.3)

37
38 12. Section 1 of P.L.1982, c.79 (C.2A:4A-60) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 1. Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure.

41 a. Social, medical, psychological, legal and other records of the
42 court and probation division, and records of law enforcement
43 agencies, pertaining to juveniles charged as a delinquent or found to
44 be part of a juvenile-family crisis, shall be strictly safeguarded from
45 public inspection. Such records shall be made available only to:

46 (1) Any court or probation division;

47 (2) The Attorney General or county prosecutor;

48 (3) The parents or guardian and to the attorney of the juvenile;

1 (4) The Department of Human Services or Department of
2 Children and Families, if providing care or custody of the juvenile;

3 (5) Any institution or facility to which the juvenile is currently
4 committed or in which the juvenile is placed;

5 (6) Any person or agency interested in a case or in the work of
6 the agency keeping the records, by order of the court for good cause
7 shown, except that information concerning adjudications of
8 delinquency, records of custodial confinement, payments owed on
9 assessments imposed pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1979, c.396
10 (C.2C:43-3.1) or restitution ordered following conviction of a crime
11 or adjudication of delinquency, and the juvenile's financial
12 resources, shall be made available upon request to the Victims of
13 Crime Compensation **【Agency】** Office established pursuant to
14 section 2 of P.L.2007, c.95 (C.52:4B-3.2), which shall keep such
15 information and records confidential;

16 (7) The Youth Justice Commission established pursuant to
17 section 2 of P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-170);

18 (8) Law enforcement agencies for the purpose of reviewing
19 applications for a permit to purchase a handgun or firearms
20 purchaser identification card;

21 (9) Any potential party in a subsequent civil action for damages
22 related to an act of delinquency committed by a juvenile, including
23 the victim or a member of the victim's immediate family, regardless
24 of whether the action has been filed against the juvenile; provided,
25 however, that records available under this paragraph shall be
26 limited to official court documents, such as complaints, pleadings
27 and orders, and that such records may be disclosed by the recipient
28 only in connection with asserting legal claims or obtaining
29 indemnification on behalf of the victim or the victim's family and
30 otherwise shall be safeguarded from disclosure to other members of
31 the public. Any potential party in a civil action related to the
32 juvenile offense may file a motion with the civil trial judge seeking
33 to have the juvenile's social, medical or psychological records
34 admitted into evidence in a civil proceeding for damages;

35 (10) Any potential party in a subsequent civil action for
36 damages related to an act of delinquency committed by a juvenile,
37 including the victim or a member of the victim's immediate family,
38 regardless of whether the action has been filed against the juvenile;
39 provided, however, that records available under this paragraph shall
40 be limited to police or investigation reports concerning acts of
41 delinquency, which shall be disclosed by a law enforcement agency
42 only with the approval of the County Prosecutor's Office or the
43 Division of Criminal Justice. Prior to disclosure, all personal
44 information regarding all individuals, other than the requesting
45 party and the arresting or investigating officer, shall be redacted.
46 Such records may be disclosed by the recipient only in connection
47 with asserting legal claims or obtaining indemnification on behalf

1 of the victim or the victim's family, and otherwise shall be
2 safeguarded from disclosure to other members of the public;

3 (11) The Office of the Child Advocate established pursuant to
4 P.L.2005, c.155 (C.52:27EE-1 et al.). Disclosure of juvenile
5 information received by the child advocate pursuant to this
6 paragraph shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 76
7 of P.L.2005, c.155 (C.52:27EE-76);

8 (12) Law enforcement agencies with respect to information
9 available on the juvenile central registry maintained by the courts
10 pursuant to subsection g. of this section, including, but not limited
11 to: records of official court documents, such as complaints,
12 pleadings and orders for the purpose of obtaining juvenile arrest
13 information; juvenile disposition information; juvenile pretrial
14 information; and information concerning the probation status of a
15 juvenile; and

16 (13) A Court Appointed Special Advocate as defined in section
17 1 of P.L.2009, c.217 (C.2A:4A-92).

18 b. Records of law enforcement agencies may be disclosed for
19 law enforcement purposes, or for the purpose of reviewing
20 applications for a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms
21 purchaser identification card to any law enforcement agency of this
22 State, another state or the United States, and the identity of a
23 juvenile under warrant for arrest for commission of an act that
24 would constitute a crime if committed by an adult may be disclosed
25 to the public when necessary to execution of the warrant.

26 c. At the time of charge, adjudication or disposition,
27 information as to the identity of a juvenile charged with an offense,
28 the offense charged, the adjudication and disposition shall, upon
29 request, be disclosed to:

30 (1) The victim or a member of the victim's immediate family;

31 (2) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2005, c.165).

32 (3) On a confidential basis, the principal of the school where the
33 juvenile is enrolled for use by the principal and such members of
34 the staff and faculty of the school as the principal deems
35 appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school
36 or to planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and
37 social development, provided that no record of such information
38 shall be maintained except as authorized by regulation of the
39 Department of Education; or

40 (4) A party in a subsequent legal proceeding involving the
41 juvenile, upon approval by the court.

42 d. A law enforcement or prosecuting agency shall, at the time
43 of a charge, adjudication or disposition, send written notice to the
44 principal of the school where the juvenile is enrolled of the identity
45 of the juvenile charged, the offense charged, the adjudication and
46 the disposition if:

1 (1) The offense occurred on school property or a school bus,
2 occurred at a school-sponsored function or was committed against
3 an employee or official of the school; or

4 (2) The juvenile was taken into custody as a result of
5 information or evidence provided by school officials; or

6 (3) The offense, if committed by an adult, would constitute a
7 crime, and the offense:

8 (a) resulted in death or serious bodily injury or involved an
9 attempt or conspiracy to cause death or serious bodily injury; or

10 (b) involved the unlawful use or possession of a firearm or other
11 weapon; or

12 (c) involved the unlawful manufacture, distribution or
13 possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous
14 substance or controlled substance analog; or

15 (d) was committed by a juvenile who acted with a purpose to
16 intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race,
17 color, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity; or

18 (e) would be a crime of the first, second, or third degree.

19 Information provided to the principal pursuant to this subsection
20 shall be maintained by the school and shall be treated as
21 confidential but may be made available to such members of the staff
22 and faculty of the school as the principal deems appropriate for
23 maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or for planning
24 programs relevant to a juvenile's educational and social
25 development.

26 e. Nothing in this section prohibits a law enforcement or
27 prosecuting agency from providing the principal of a school with
28 information identifying one or more juveniles who are under
29 investigation or have been taken into custody for commission of any
30 act that would constitute an offense if committed by an adult when
31 the law enforcement or prosecuting agency determines that the
32 information may be useful to the principal in maintaining order,
33 safety or discipline in the school or in planning programs relevant
34 to the juvenile's educational and social development. Information
35 provided to the principal pursuant to this subsection shall be treated
36 as confidential but may be made available to such members of the
37 staff and faculty of the school as the principal deems appropriate for
38 maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or for planning
39 programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social
40 development. No information provided pursuant to this section
41 shall be maintained.

42 f. Information as to the identity of a juvenile adjudicated
43 delinquent, the offense, the adjudication and the disposition shall be
44 disclosed to the public where the offense for which the juvenile has
45 been adjudicated delinquent if committed by an adult, would
46 constitute a crime of the first, second or third degree, or aggravated
47 assault, destruction or damage to property to an extent of more than
48 \$500.00, unless upon application at the time of disposition the

1 juvenile demonstrates a substantial likelihood that specific and
2 extraordinary harm would result from such disclosure in the specific
3 case. Where the court finds that disclosure would be harmful to the
4 juvenile, the reasons therefor shall be stated on the record.

5 g. (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the establishment
6 and maintaining of a central registry of the records of law
7 enforcement agencies relating to juveniles for the purpose of
8 exchange between State and local law enforcement agencies and
9 prosecutors of this State, another state, or the United States. These
10 records of law enforcement agencies shall be available on a 24-hour
11 basis.

12 (2) Certain information and records relating to juveniles in the
13 central registry maintained by the courts, as prescribed in paragraph
14 (12) of subsection a. of this section, shall be available to State and
15 local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors on a 24-hour basis.

16 h. Whoever, except as provided by law, knowingly discloses,
17 publishes, receives, or makes use of or knowingly permits the
18 unauthorized use of information concerning a particular juvenile
19 derived from records listed in subsection a. or acquired in the
20 course of court proceedings, probation, or police duties, shall, upon
21 conviction thereof, be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

22 i. Juvenile delinquency proceedings.

23 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
24 court may, upon application by the juvenile or his parent or
25 guardian, the prosecutor or any other interested party, including the
26 victim or complainant or members of the news media, permit public
27 attendance during any court proceeding at a delinquency case,
28 where it determines that a substantial likelihood that specific harm
29 to the juvenile would not result. The court shall have the authority
30 to limit and control attendance in any manner and to the extent it
31 deems appropriate;

32 (2) The court or, in cases where the county prosecutor has
33 entered an appearance, the county prosecutor shall notify the victim
34 or a member of the victim's immediate family of any court
35 proceeding involving the juvenile and the court shall permit the
36 attendance of the victim or family member at the proceeding except
37 when, prior to completing testimony as a witness, the victim or
38 family member is properly sequestered in accordance with the law
39 or the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey or
40 when the juvenile or the juvenile's family member shows, by clear
41 and convincing evidence, that such attendance would result in a
42 substantial likelihood that specific harm to the juvenile would result
43 from the attendance of the victim or a family member at a
44 proceeding or any portion of a proceeding and that such harm
45 substantially outweighs the interest of the victim or family member
46 to attend that portion of the proceeding;

47 (3) The court shall permit a victim, or a family member of a
48 victim to make a statement prior to ordering a disposition in any

1 delinquency proceeding involving an offense that would constitute a
2 crime if committed by an adult.

3 j. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
4 Attorney General, shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative
5 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
6 regulations concerning the creation, maintenance and disclosure of
7 pupil records including information acquired pursuant to this
8 section.

9 k. The provisions of this section shall apply to all proceedings,
10 reports, and records regarding applications for minor protection
11 orders filed pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill).

13 (cf: P.L.2025, c.35, s.13)

14
15 13. (New section) The Supreme Court may promulgate Rules of
16 Court and the Administrative Director of the Courts may issue
17 directives or guidelines to effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c.
18 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

19
20 14. (New section) There is appropriated from the General Fund
21 to the Administrative Office of the Courts such funds as shall be
22 necessary for the implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
23 before the Legislature as this bill), as certified by the
24 Administrative Director of the Courts and subject to the approval of
25 the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the
26 Department of the Treasury.

27
28 15. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th month
29 next following the date of enactment.

30
31
32 STATEMENT

33
34 This bill establishes the "Minor Protection Order Act of 2026."
35 Under the provisions of this bill, a parent or guardian of a minor
36 who is at least 14 years of age and alleges to be the victim of certain
37 conduct may file an application with the Superior Court alleging the
38 commission of the conduct and seeking a minor protection order
39 against a respondent who is at least 14 years of age.

40 Under the bill, conduct means the following: 1) in cases where
41 there is a dating or domestic relationship, including a current or
42 former dating relationship, the respondent committed or attempted
43 to commit a delinquent act which if committed by an adult would
44 constitute homicide, assault, terroristic threats, kidnapping, criminal
45 restraint, false imprisonment, sexual assault, criminal sexual
46 contact, lewdness, criminal mischief, burglary, criminal trespass,
47 harassment, stalking, criminal coercion, robbery, cyber-harassment,
48 or any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily injury to

1 a person who qualifies for relief under the bill; or (2) in cases where
2 there is a non-domestic relationship and there is no dating or former
3 dating relationship, nonconsensual sexual contact, sexual
4 penetration, or lewdness, or any attempt at such conduct, or stalking
5 or cyber-harassment as these terms are defined under the bill.

6 The application is to be filed during regular court hours and is to
7 be filed by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of the victim.

8 The bill authorizes an applicant to seek a minor protection order
9 and the court to issue a minor protection order regardless of
10 whether delinquency charges based on the incident were filed and
11 regardless of the disposition of the charges. In cases where
12 delinquency charges arising from the incident have been filed, the
13 prosecutor is required to advise the victim of the right to apply for a
14 temporary minor protection order or may make an appropriate
15 application to the court for a no contact order. Further, the filing of
16 an application does not prevent the filing of a delinquency
17 complaint or the institution or maintenance of a juvenile
18 delinquency proceeding based on the same conduct.

19 Under the bill, an applicant may seek emergency, ex parte relief
20 in the nature of a temporary minor protection order. A judge may
21 enter an emergency ex parte order when necessary to protect the
22 safety and well-being of the alleged victim on whose behalf the
23 relief is sought. The court is required to, upon consideration of the
24 application, issue a temporary minor protection order if the court
25 determines the applicant is a victim of conduct set forth in the bill
26 and qualifies for relief under the bill's provisions. The court may
27 issue a temporary minor protection order upon sworn testimony of
28 the applicant or an application of an alleged victim who is not
29 physically present, pursuant to the Rules of Court, or by a person
30 who represents an alleged victim who is physically or mentally
31 incapable of personally filing. The order would be granted upon
32 good cause shown and is to remain in effect until a judge of the
33 Superior Court issues a further order.

34 Following the issuance of the temporary minor protection order,
35 a hearing for a final minor protection order is required to be held in
36 the Superior Court within 10 business days of the filing of the
37 application for the temporary minor protection order. A copy of the
38 application is to be served on the respondent and his or her parent
39 or legal guardian in conformity with the Rules of Court. A parent
40 or legal guardian of both the minor victim and the minor respondent
41 are required to be present at the hearing. The court may, in its
42 discretion, appoint a guardian ad litem for either party when the
43 court deems it necessary or appropriate.

44 Further, the bill provides that at the hearing, the standard for
45 proving the allegations made in the application for a final minor
46 protection order is preponderance of the evidence. The court is to
47 consider the following factors: 1) the occurrence of one or more
48 acts set forth under the bill against the alleged victim; 2) any prior

1 history of or threats to commit one or more acts set forth under the
2 bill against the alleged victim; and 3) the future risk to the safety or
3 well-being of the alleged victim.

4 Under the bill, a court is to issue a final minor protection order
5 only after a finding or an admission is made that the respondent
6 committed conduct set forth under the bill against the alleged
7 victim.

8 A final minor protection order may include any relief the court
9 deems necessary to protect the victim including: 1) restraining the
10 respondent from committing any further acts of violence against the
11 victim or any prohibited conduct; 2) prohibiting all forms of contact
12 with the victim, whether direct or indirect, including in-person,
13 telephonic, electronic, or third-party communications; 3) restricting
14 the respondent from entering specified locations, including the
15 victim's residence, school, workplace, or other locations regularly
16 frequented by the victim; 4) prohibiting the respondent from
17 stalking, harassing, or threatening the victim; 5) ordering the
18 respondent to undergo counseling, treatment, or an evaluation,
19 including psychological, psychiatric, or substance abuse
20 assessments; and 6) prohibiting or limiting the respondent's use of
21 social media.

22 The bill further provides that the order is required to: 1) prohibit
23 the respondent from purchasing, owning, possessing, accessing, or
24 controlling firearms; 2) require the immediate surrender of any
25 firearms or weapons in the respondent's possession; and 3) include
26 any other safeguards, as determined appropriate by the court.

27 Under the bill, a final minor protection order is to remain in
28 effect for a period of six months to one year. In cases where a final
29 minor protection order is entered against a respondent who is at
30 least 17.5 years old when the order was issued, the final minor
31 protection order may remain in effect up until the respondent is 18.5
32 years of age. Upon application to the court by the victim, the court
33 may extend the order in six-month increments until the respondent's
34 18th birthday if the court finds good cause for the continuation of
35 the order, including the continued risk to the safety or well-being of
36 the victim.

37 The bill authorizes either party to file a petition with the court to
38 dissolve or modify a final minor protection order. Upon application
39 for modification or dissolution of the order by the victim or
40 respondent, the court is required to conduct a hearing to consider
41 whether a material change in circumstances has occurred since the
42 issuance of the minor protection order which would make its
43 continued enforcement inequitable, oppressive, or unjust taking into
44 account the current status of the parties, including the desire of the
45 victim for the continuation of the minor protection order, the
46 potential for contact between the parties, the history of the
47 respondent's violations of the minor protection order or
48 adjudications of delinquency, and any other factors that the court

1 may find relevant to protecting the safety and well-being of the
2 victim.

3 Under the bill, a respondent's violation of a temporary or final
4 minor protection order constitutes contempt, which is a crime of the
5 fourth degree if the conduct which constitutes the violation could
6 also constitute a crime or disorderly persons offense or, in all other
7 cases, a disorderly persons offense.

8 Further, the bill requires all temporary and final minor protection
9 orders to be entered into the juvenile central registry. A temporary
10 minor protection order is to be removed from the juvenile central
11 registry upon dismissal of the order. A final minor protection order
12 is to be removed from the juvenile central registry upon the
13 respondent reaching the age of 18, provided that the final minor
14 protection order has been dissolved. In any case where a final
15 minor protection order remains in effect beyond the respondent's
16 18th birthday, the final minor protection order is to be removed
17 from the juvenile central registry upon dissolution of the order.

18 This bill also sets forth requirements for training for law
19 enforcement, assistant prosecutors, and certain Superior Court
20 judges and judicial personnel regarding the bill's provisions.

21 Finally, under the bill, there is appropriated from the General
22 Fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts such funds as are
23 necessary for the implementation of the bill, as certified by the
24 Administrative Director of the Courts and subject to the approval of
25 the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the
26 Department of the Treasury.