

SENATE, No. 4744

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT
District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS
Creates crime of incest.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.



1 AN ACT creating the crime of incest and supplementing chapter 24
2 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. An actor is guilty of incest, a crime of the third degree, if the
8 actor marries or enters into a civil union, or commits an act of
9 sexual penetration, with the actor's ancestor or descendant, the
10 actor's sibling, a sibling of the actor's parent, or a child of the
11 actor's sibling. The relationships referred to herein include blood
12 relationships of the whole or half blood, without regard to
13 legitimacy and relationship of parent and child by adoption.

14
15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This bill would establish a third degree crime of incest that may
20 be prosecuted separately from or in addition to other sexual
21 offenses, such as sexual assault (N.J.S.2C:14-2) or endangering the
22 welfare of children (N.J.S.2C:24-4). Under current law, the crime
23 of sexual assault does not apply to incestuous acts between
24 consenting adults.

25 Under the bill, a person commits the crime of incest if the person
26 marries or commits an act of sexual penetration with a person's
27 ancestor or descendant, a sibling, a sibling of the person's parent
28 (i.e., aunt or uncle), or a child of the person's sibling (i.e., niece or
29 nephew). These relationships enumerated in the bill would include
30 blood relationships of the whole or half blood, without regard to
31 legitimacy or relationship of parent and child by adoption.

32 A crime of the third degree is punishable by a term of
33 imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

34 Incest was previously a crime under State law, N.J.S.A.2A:114-1
35 and 2A:114-2, but those laws were repealed by P.L.1978, c.95.