STATE OF NEW YORK

10453

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. STERN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a persistent domestic violence offender registry

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Savanna's Law".

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-aa to read as follows:

§ 837-aa. Persistent domestic violence offender registry. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Convicted" and "conviction" mean a verdict of guilty by a judge or jury or a plea of guilty and include a plea of nolo contendere and a best interest plea accepted by the court.

(b) "Victim of domestic violence" has the same meaning as defined in section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social services law.

(c) "Persistent domestic violence offender" means a person who:

(i) has been convicted in this state of a domestic violence offense; and

(ii) has at least one prior conviction for a domestic violence offense.

(d) "Domestic violence" means an act which would constitute a violation of the penal law, including, but not limited to acts constituting disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment, sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal mischief, menacing, reckless endangerment, kidnapping, assault, attempted assault, attempted murder, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, strangulation, identity theft, grand larceny or coercion, which have been committed by a family or household member of the victim.

(e) "Family or household members" mean the following individuals:

(i) persons related by consanguinity or affinity;

(ii) persons legally married to one another;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(iii) persons formerly married to one another regardless of whether they still reside in the same household;

(iv) persons who have a child in common regardless of whether such persons are married or have lived together at any time;

(v) unrelated persons who are continually or at regular intervals living in the same household or who have in the past continually or at regular intervals lived in the same household;

(vi) persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time. Factors that may be considered in determining whether a relationship is an "intimate relationship" include, but are not limited to: the nature or type of relationship, regardless of whether the relationship is sexual in nature; the frequency of interaction between the persons; and the duration of the relationship. Neither a casual acquaintance nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute an "intimate relationship"; or

(vii) any other category of individuals deemed to be a victim of domestic violence as defined by the office of children and family services in regulation.

2. (a) There is created within the division a registry of persistent domestic violence offenders.

(b) The division shall maintain this registry based upon information supplied to the division by the court clerks pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this subdivision and information available to the division from the department of corrections and community supervision and state and local law enforcement agencies. The division shall make the registry available for public inquiry on the internet.

(c) The registry shall consist of the persistent domestic violence offender's name, date of birth, conviction date, county or counties of convictions, and a current photograph of the persistent domestic violence offender. If available after reasonable inquiry, the court clerk shall provide the division with a copy of the persistent domestic violence offender's driver license, or other state or federal identification, and such other identifying data as the division determines is necessary to properly identify the persistent domestic violence offender and exclude innocent persons. However, the registry available for public inquiry must not include the persistent domestic violence offender's address, social security number, driver license number, or any other state or federal identification number.

(d)(i) If a person is convicted of an offense committed against a victim of domestic violence and the person convicted has at least one prior conviction for an offense committed against a victim of domestic violence, then the court shall, upon proof of any prior convictions committed against a victim of domestic violence, order the defendant to register as a persistent domestic violence offender under this section.

(ii) If a court orders a defendant to register under this section, then the court clerk shall forward to the division a certified copy of the qualifying conviction and the date of birth of the defendant. The court clerk shall forward the information to the division within seven days of the date of the conviction.

(e) In addition to any other punishment that may be imposed for a conviction of the offense, a defendant required to register under this section shall be assessed a registration fee in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars, which shall be paid to the clerk of the court imposing the sentence, who shall:

(i) Retain fifty dollars of the fee for the administration of this section, which shall be reserved for the purposes authorized by this section at the end of each fiscal year; and

(ii) Remit one hundred dollars of the fee to the domestic violence awareness fund established pursuant to section ninety-seven-yyy of the state finance law, as added by chapter six hundred thirty-four of the laws of two thousand two.

(f) The division shall remove from the registry the name and other identifying information of a persistent domestic violence offender required to register under this section:

(i) Five years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has one prior conviction for an offense committed against a victim of domestic violence;

(ii) Seven years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has two prior convictions for an offense committed against a victim of domestic violence;

(iii) Ten years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has three prior convictions for an offense committed against a victim of domestic violence; and

(iv) Twenty years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has four or more prior convictions for an offense committed against a victim of domestic violence.

(g) Prior to including a persistent domestic violence offender on the registry established pursuant to this section, the division shall provide the domestic abuse victim the option of declining to have such persistent domestic violence offender included on the registry.

3. This section applies only to persons convicted of a domestic violence offense that occurred on or after January first, two thousand twenty-seven; provided, however, that a prior conviction for the purposes of this section may have occurred before such date.

§ 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.