

6779

I N S E N A T E

March 21, 2012

Introduced by Sen. O'MARA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to protecting a person's right to know who is behind an anonymous internet posting

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The civil rights law, is amended by adding a new section  
2 79-o to read as follows:

3 S 79-o. ANONYMOUS INTERNET POSTER; RIGHT TO KNOW. 1. DEFINITIONS. AS  
4 USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND TERMS SHALL HAVE THE  
5 FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

6 (A) ANONYMOUS POSTER IS ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO POSTS A MESSAGE ON A WEB  
7 SITE INCLUDING SOCIAL NETWORKS, BLOGS FORUMS, MESSAGE BOARDS OR ANY  
8 OTHER DISCUSSION SITE WHERE PEOPLE CAN HOLD CONVERSATIONS IN THE FORM OF  
9 POSTED MESSAGES.

10 (B) "WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR" MEANS ANY PERSON OR ENTITY THAT IS  
11 RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING A WEB SITE OR MANAGING THE CONTENT OR DEVEL-  
12 OPMENT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED ON A WEB SITE INCLUDING SOCIAL NETWORKS,  
13 BLOGS FORUMS, MESSAGE BOARDS OR ANY OTHER DISCUSSION SITE WHERE PEOPLE  
14 CAN HOLD CONVERSATIONS IN THE FORM OF POSTED MESSAGES, ACCESSIBLE VIA A  
15 NETWORK SUCH AS THE INTERNET OR A PRIVATE LOCAL AREA NETWORK.

16 (C) "INTERNET" MEANS THE GLOBAL SYSTEM OF INTERCONNECTED COMPUTER  
17 NETWORKS THAT USE THE INTERNET PROTOCOL.

18 (D) "INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS" OR "IP ADDRESS" MEANS A NUMERICAL  
19 LABEL ASSIGNED TO EACH COMPUTER OR DEVICE PARTICIPATING IN A COMPUTER  
20 NETWORK THAT USES THE INTERNET PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION.

21 2. A WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR UPON REQUEST SHALL REMOVE ANY COMMENTS  
22 POSTED ON HIS OR HER WEB SITE BY AN ANONYMOUS POSTER UNLESS SUCH ANONY-  
23 MOUS POSTER AGREES TO ATTACH HIS OR HER NAME TO THE POST AND CONFIRMS  
24 THAT HIS OR HER IP ADDRESS, LEGAL NAME, AND HOME ADDRESS ARE ACCURATE.  
25 ALL WEB SITE ADMINISTRATORS SHALL HAVE A CONTACT NUMBER OR E-MAIL  
26 ADDRESS POSTED FOR SUCH REMOVAL REQUESTS, CLEARLY VISIBLE IN ANY  
27 SECTIONS WHERE COMMENTS ARE POSTED.

28 S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
29 have become a law.

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

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