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I N   A S S E M B L Y

June 13, 2014

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Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Cusick) --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to the privacy rights  
of crime victims

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     50-f to read as follows:  
3     S 50-F. RIGHT OF PRIVACY; DISSEMINATION OF THE IMAGE OF A CRIME  
4     VICTIM. 1. THE IMAGE OF A CRIME VICTIM, WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION  
5     SIX HUNDRED FORTY-ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW, SHALL BE DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL  
6     TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION. NO PERSON WHO IS A PUBLIC SERV-  
7     ANT, OR WHO IS PERFORMING THE OFFICIAL DUTIES OF A PUBLIC SERVANT, WHO  
8     IN THE COURSE OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL DUTIES RECORDS A STILL OR MOTION  
9     PICTURE IMAGE OF A CRIME VICTIM, SHALL INTENTIONALLY BROADCAST OR  
10    PUBLISH SUCH IMAGE OF SUCH CRIME VICTIM OUTSIDE OF THE COURSE OF CONDUCT  
11    OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL DUTIES, EXCEPT THAT NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE  
12    CONSTRUED TO IMPAIR OR DIMINISH THE AUTHORITY TO USE SUCH STILL OR  
13    MOTION PICTURE IMAGE FOR AN AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL PURPOSE, INCLUDING  
14    AUTHORIZED TRAINING, NOR THE OBLIGATION TO DISCLOSE SUCH IMAGE PURSUANT  
15    TO A COURT ORDER OR AS MAY OTHERWISE BE REQUIRED BY LAW.  
16    2. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:  
17    (A) "BROADCAST" MEANS ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTING A VISUAL IMAGE WITH  
18    THE INTENT THAT IT BE VIEWED BY A PERSON.  
19    (B) "DISSEMINATE" MEANS TO GIVE, PROVIDE, LEND, DELIVER, MAIL, SEND,  
20    FORWARD, TRANSFER OR TRANSMIT, ELECTRONICALLY OR OTHERWISE TO ANOTHER  
21    PERSON.  
22    (C) "PUBLISH" MEANS TO (I) POST, PRESENT, DISPLAY, EXHIBIT, CIRCULATE,  
23    ADVERTISE OR ALLOW ACCESS, ELECTRONICALLY OR OTHERWISE, SO AS TO MAKE AN  
24    IMAGE OR IMAGES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; OR (II) DISSEMINATE WITH THE  
25    INTENT THAT AN IMAGE OR IMAGES BE POSTED, PRESENTED, DISPLAYED, EXHIB-  
26    ITED, CIRCULATED, ADVERTISED OR MADE ACCESSIBLE, ELECTRONICALLY OR  
27    OTHERWISE AND TO MAKE SUCH IMAGE OR IMAGES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

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

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1        3. IF AN IMAGE OF A CRIME VICTIM, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF  
2 THIS SECTION, IS BROADCAST OR PUBLISHED IN VIOLATION OF SUCH SUBDIVI-  
3 SION, ANY PERSON INJURED BY SUCH BROADCAST OR PUBLICATION, MAY BRING AN  
4 ACTION TO RECOVER ACTUAL AND/OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES SUFFERED BY REASON OF  
5 SUCH WRONGFUL BROADCAST OR PUBLICATION. IN ANY ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS  
6 SECTION, THE COURT MAY AWARD REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES TO A PREVAILING  
7 PLAINTIFF.

8        4. ANY PERSON WHO, UPON APPLICATION TO A COURT HAVING JURISDICTION  
9 OVER SAID ACTION, DEMONSTRATES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COURT THAT AN  
10 AUTHORIZED, OFFICIAL PURPOSE EXISTED FOR SUCH BROADCAST OR PUBLICATION,  
11 SHALL HAVE A DEFENSE TO SUCH ACTION. SUCH APPLICATION SHALL BE MADE UPON  
12 NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES AS WELL AS THE CRIME VICTIM AND ANY PERSON LEGALLY  
13 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF SUCH CRIME VICTIM.

14        S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.