STATE OF NEW YORK

5239

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2021

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- 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 limiting who may bring a private right of action for identifying a victim of a sex offense

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 50-b of the civil rights law, as amended by chapter 320 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

1. The identity of any victim of a sex offense, as defined in article one hundred thirty or section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27 of the penal law, or of an offense involving the alleged transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus, shall be confidential. No **portion of any** report, paper, picture, photograph, court file or other documents, in the custody or possession of any public officer or employee, which identifies such a victim shall be made available for public inspection. No such public officer or employee shall disclose any portion of any police report, court file, or other document, which tends to identify such a victim except as provided in subdivision two of this section.

§ 2. Section 50-c of the civil rights law, as amended by chapter 643 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

§ 50-c. Private right of action. If the identity of the victim of an offense defined in subdivision one of section fifty-b of this article is disclosed in violation of such section, [~~any person injured by such disclosure~~] **and has not otherwise been publicly disclosed, such victim** may bring an action to recover damages suffered by reason of such wrongful disclosure. In any action brought under this section, the court may award reasonable attorney's fees to a prevailing plaintiff.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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