

STATE OF NEW YORK

5556

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PICHARDO, SAYEGH, TAYLOR, DICKENS, REYES, SIMON,
COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Cities

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in
relation to enactment of the "safe streets security camera registry
act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "safe streets security camera registry act".

3 § 2. Legislative intent. Currently, the police department of the city
4 of New York collects information on the location of privately-owned
5 security cameras manually, by means of periodic surveys conducted by
6 patrol officers. Such surveys do not capture the locations of newly-in-
7 stalled privately-owned security cameras in a timely and complete manner
8 due to their periodic nature and reliance on personal observations by
9 officers. It is the intent of the legislature that the police department
10 create an online security camera registry and database for all private-
11 ly-owned and operated security cameras within the city of New York with
12 fields of observation that look upon and capture video of public spaces,
13 such as sidewalks, as well as lobbies, courtyards and vestibules of
14 apartment buildings. Creating the security camera registry will
15 strengthen the department's ability to pursue perpetrators of crimes by
16 enhancing its ability to collect video evidence in a timely manner,
17 thereby shortening the time needed to bring criminal investigations to a
18 successful conclusion. The registry will only alert the department to
19 the existence of privately-owned security cameras that observe persons
20 in public places. Nothing in this legislation will impinge upon the
21 civil liberties of the people of the city of New York.

22 § 3. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended by
23 adding a new section 14-177.1 to read as follows:

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

LBD08167-01-1

1 § 14-177.1 Security camera registry. a. The department shall create
2 and maintain an online registry and database of all privately-owned and
3 operated security cameras within the city of New York with fields of
4 observation that look upon and capture video of public spaces, such as
5 sidewalks, as well as lobbies, courtyards and vestibules of apartment
6 buildings.

7 b. Any individual, company or entity which installs a new security
8 camera after the effective date of this section shall, within thirty
9 days after installation of such camera, register the location of the
10 camera and the contact information for the owner of the camera and
11 include a brief description of the view the camera captures with the
12 registry and database created and maintained by the department. The
13 owner of the camera shall register such information with the department
14 through the department's online registry.

15 c. The owner of a security camera which has been installed prior to
16 the effective date of this section shall have ninety days after the
17 effective date of this section to register the location of the camera
18 and the contact information for the owner of the camera with the depart-
19 ment's registry and include a brief description of the view the camera
20 captures as set forth in subdivision b of this section.

21 d. In the event that a crime occurs within the vicinity of a security
22 camera registered with the department's database, the department shall
23 obtain the consent of the camera owner to view any footage recorded or
24 otherwise obtain a subpoena for production of such video.

25 e. The security camera registry and database shall be used solely for
26 law enforcement purposes. Any data, records, photos, videos or informa-
27 tion collected for such camera registry shall not be subject to the
28 freedom of information law pursuant to subdivision two of section eight-
29 y-nine of the public officers law.

30 § 4. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
31 have become a law.