STATE OF NEW YORK

9267

IN SENATE

February 19, 2026

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to enacting the "consumer camera privacy act"

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 "consumer camera privacy act".

§ 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 390-f to read as follows:

§ 390-f. Networked camera devices; coordinated surveillance features. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Networked camera device" means any internet-connected device sold to consumers that captures video or still images of persons or property, including but not limited to video doorbells, security cameras, and similar devices.

(b) "Coordinated surveillance feature" means any function of a networked camera device that transmits, shares, pools, or makes video footage or derivative data accessible to persons other than the owner of such networked camera device, including but not limited to networked search functions, crowdsourced tracking systems, biometric analysis, and community alert features.

(c) "Biometric analysis" means the use of automated systems to identify, track, or categorize individuals based on physical characteristics, including but not limited to facial geometry, gait, or voice.

(d) "Default setting" means any configuration of a networked camera device that is active upon initial setup without affirmative action by the owner of such device.

(e) "Manufacturer or operator" means a person or entity that:

(i) manufactures a networked camera device; and/or

(ii) provides digital services to owners of internet-connected networked camera devices, including but not limited to, accessing recorded video footage or still images that are saved on a remote serv-

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

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er, remote access to live video footage, or access to other features of such networked camera devices.

(f) "Owner" means the owner of a networked camera device.

2. Prohibited practices. No manufacturer or operator of a networked camera device shall:

(a) enable any coordinated surveillance feature as a default setting; provided, however, that such coordinated surveillance features may be offered only upon the owner's affirmative opt-in consent, obtained separately from general terms of service;

(b) use footage captured by an owner's networked camera device for algorithm training, product development, or any purpose other than providing services directly requested by such owner, without separate affirmative consent;

(c) retain footage captured by a networked camera device that has not been activated with a paid subscription or affirmative owner setup for more than seventy-two hours, unless such owner affirmatively elects longer retention; or

(d) condition basic networked camera device functionality on owner participation in any coordinated surveillance feature.

3. Disclosure requirements. (a) At the point of sale of any networked camera device, the following disclosures shall be displayed prominently and separately from other product information regarding such networked camera device:

(i) whether such networked camera device records to local storage, remote server storage, or both;

(ii) whether any footage is transmitted to the manufacturer or operator, or other third parties, absent owner action;

(iii) whether any coordinated surveillance feature is included and, if so, such coordinated surveillance feature's default status; and

(iv) such networked camera device's data retention practices.

(b) Upon initial setup of a networked camera device, the manufacturer or operator shall present the consumer with a plain-language summary of data collection practices before any recording function is enabled on such networked camera device.

4. Owner data rights. (a) Upon request, a manufacturer or operator shall provide the owner with all footage captured by such owner's networked camera device within seventy-two hours, regardless of subscription status, in a commonly used electronic format.

(b) Upon request, a manufacturer or operator shall delete all footage and derivative data associated with an owner's networked camera device within thirty days.

(c) An owner may revoke consent to any coordinated surveillance feature at any time, and such revocation shall take effect within twenty-four hours.

5. Law enforcement access. (a) No footage from a coordinated surveillance feature shall be disclosed to any law enforcement agency except pursuant to a warrant issued upon probable cause or the networked camera device's owner's voluntary and informed consent given in response to a specific request.

(b) Manufacturers and operators shall publish annual transparency reports detailing the number of law enforcement requests received, the number complied with, and the legal process relied upon.

6. Enforcement. (a) The attorney general may bring an action to enjoin violations of this section and to obtain civil penalties of up to ten thousand dollars per violation, or up to twenty-five thousand dollars per violation where such violation was willful.

(b) Any person injured by a violation of this section may bring a civil action to recover actual damages or five hundred dollars per violation, whichever is greater, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

§ 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.