STATE OF NEW YORK

9975

IN SENATE

April 20, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, the penal law and the civil rights law, in relation to prohibiting the disclosure and publication of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor

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

Section 1. Section 89 of the public officers law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7-a to read as follows:

7-a. (a) Nothing in this article shall permit the disclosure or publication of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor.

(b) "First responder" or "New York state, New York city, or local municipal emergency first responder" shall mean a police officer, peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other emergency medical services provider engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties.

§ 2. The penal law is amended by adding two new sections 250.61 and 250.62 to read as follows:

§ 250.61 Unlawful disclosure of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor in the second degree.

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

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For the purposes of this section, "first responder" or "New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder" shall mean a police officer, peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other emergency medical services provider engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties.

A person shall not knowingly, with reckless disregard for the probability of exposure of another to harassment or risk of harm to life or property, disclose or post or publish in any way including on the internet the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a state, county or municipal prosecutor.

Unlawful disclosure of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.

§ 250.62 Unlawful disclosure of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor, or the spouse or child thereof in the first degree.

For the purposes of this section, "first responder" or "New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder" shall mean a police officer, peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other emergency medical services provider engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties.

A person shall not knowingly, with intent to expose another to harassment or risk of harm to life or property, disclose, post or publish in any way including on the internet the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor, or the spouse or child thereof.

Unlawful disclosure of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor, or the spouse or child thereof in the first degree is a class E felony.

§ 3. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 50-h to read as follows:

§ 50-h. Disclosure of the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or personal social media handles of any active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor is prohibited. 1. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "First responder" or "New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder" shall mean a police officer, peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other

emergency medical services provider engaged in the lawful performance of official duties.

(b) "Disclose" shall mean to solicit, sell, manufacture, give, provide, lend, trade, mail, deliver, transfer, publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present, exhibit, advertise or offer.

2. No person, business, or association shall disclose or post or publish in any way including on the internet the home address, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, or personal social media handles of an active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, a judge of any court of law of this state, or a New York state, county or municipal prosecutor or spouse or child thereof under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that providing that information would expose another to harassment or risk of harm to life or property.

3. A person, business, or association that violates subdivision two of this section shall be liable to the active or former New York state, New York city or local municipal emergency first responder, judge of any court of law of this state, or state, county or municipal prosecutor, the spouse or child thereof, or any other person residing at the home address of such individual, who may bring a civil action in the supreme court.

4. The court may award:

(a) actual damages, but not less than liquidated damages computed at the rate of one thousand dollars for each violation of this section;

(b) punitive damages upon proof of willful or reckless disregard of the law;

(c) reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and

(d) any other preliminary and equitable relief as the court determines to be appropriate.

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