

2C:13-7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2005 **CHAPTER:** 1

NJSA: 2C:13-7 (Luring another to commit a crime via electronic means including the internet)

BILL NO: A2864 (Substituted for S1429)

SPONSOR(S): Scalera and others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 17, 2004

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Judiciary
SENATE:

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** October 7, 2004

SENATE: December 6, 2004

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 18, 2005

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) Original version of bill enacted

A2864

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 2 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#)

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1429

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 6 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

[GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:](#) [Yes](#)

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

"New law protects adults from internet predators," 1-19-2005 The Star Ledger, p.30

"New law cracks down on crime spurred by the Internet," 1-19-2005 Courier News, pA3

"New tool in war on Internet crimes," 1-19-2005 The Record, p.A3

"Internet abusers targeted," 1-19-2005 The Times, p.A7

"Internet predator law protects adults," 1-19-2005 Philadelphia Inquirer, p.B5

"Cyber-rape outlawed," 1-19-2005 Asbury Park Press, p.A1

P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 1, *approved January 18, 2005*
Assembly, No. 2864

1 ANACT concerning luring or enticing another and supplementing Title
2 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. (New section) A person commits a crime of the third degree if
8 he attempts, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice a
9 person into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area, or to meet or
10 appear at any place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense with
11 or against the person lured or enticed or against any other person.

12 "Electronic means" as used in this section includes, but is not
13 limited to, the Internet. "Internet" means the international computer
14 network of both federal and non-federal interoperable packet switched
15 data networks. "Structure" shall have the meaning set forth in
16 P.L.1993, c.291 (C.2C:13-6).

17 Nothing herein shall be deemed to preclude, if the evidence so
18 warrants, an indictment and conviction for attempted kidnapping under
19 the provisions of N.J.S.2C:13-1 or for any other crime or offense.

20 Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other law,
21 a conviction under this section shall not merge with a conviction of
22 any other criminal offense, nor shall such other conviction merge with
23 a conviction under this section, and the court shall impose separate
24 sentences upon each violation of this section and any other criminal
25 offense. The court may not suspend or make any other non-custodial
26 disposition of any person sentenced pursuant to this section.

27

28 2. This act shall take effect immediately .

29

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STATEMENT

32

33 This bill would make it a crime of the third degree for a person to
34 attempt, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice a person
35 into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area, or to meet or appear
36 at any place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense with or
37 against the person who was lured or enticed or against any other
38 person.

39 This bill was prompted by a case in Wood-Ridge where prosecutors
40 say that a woman was menaced by a stranger who parked his van near
41 her home, leered at her and frightened her into calling the police. The
42 man had allegedly intended to commit a sexual assault against her after
43 being enticed into coming to her home by a message he thought she

1 had posted in an Internet chat room. In actuality the message had not
2 been posted by the woman, who knew nothing about it, but according
3 to prosecutors, had been posted by Jonathan Gilberti, who had posed
4 as the woman in the chat room. Mr. Gilberti had allegedly posted the
5 woman's name, address, physical description and the hours she would
6 likely be home alone, saying that "she" was inviting men to come to
7 her home to rape her.

8 The bill, which contains language similar to that in N.J.S.A.2C:13-6
9 concerning luring or enticing a child, would apply to persons who lure
10 or entice an adult in order to commit a crime against that adult, as well
11 as to persons who lure or entice an adult in order to have that adult
12 carry out the commission of a crime against a third person.

13 The bill provides that it shall not be deemed to preclude, if the
14 evidence so warrants, an indictment or conviction for attempted
15 kidnapping or for any other crime or offense.

16

17

18

19

20 _____
21 Makes it a crime to lure or entice another for the purpose of
22 committing a crime via electronic or any other means including the
Internet.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2864

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 17, 2004

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman FREDERICK SCALERA

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

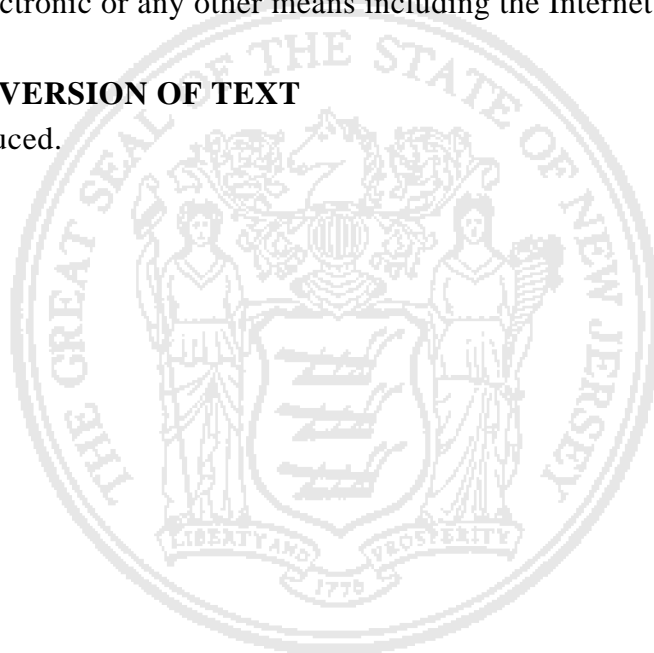
Assemblyman Conners, Senators Sarlo, Adler and Madden

SYNOPSIS

Makes it a crime to lure or entice another for the purpose of committing a crime via electronic or any other means including the Internet.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/7/2004)

1 AN ACT concerning luring or enticing another and supplementing Title
2 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) A person commits a crime of the third degree if
8 he attempts, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice a
9 person into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area, or to meet or
10 appear at any place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense with
11 or against the person lured or enticed or against any other person.

12 "Electronic means" as used in this section includes, but is not
13 limited to, the Internet. "Internet" means the international computer
14 network of both federal and non-federal interoperable packet switched
15 data networks. "Structure" shall have the meaning set forth in
16 P.L.1993, c.291 (C.2C:13-6).

17 Nothing herein shall be deemed to preclude, if the evidence so
18 warrants, an indictment and conviction for attempted kidnapping under
19 the provisions of N.J.S.2C:13-1 or for any other crime or offense.

20 Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other law,
21 a conviction under this section shall not merge with a conviction of
22 any other criminal offense, nor shall such other conviction merge with
23 a conviction under this section, and the court shall impose separate
24 sentences upon each violation of this section and any other criminal
25 offense. The court may not suspend or make any other non-custodial
26 disposition of any person sentenced pursuant to this section.

27

28 2. This act shall take effect immediately .

29

30

31

STATEMENT

32

33 This bill would make it a crime of the third degree for a person to
34 attempt, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice a person
35 into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area, or to meet or appear
36 at any place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense with or
37 against the person who was lured or enticed or against any other
38 person.

39 This bill was prompted by a case in Wood-Ridge where prosecutors
40 say that a woman was menaced by a stranger who parked his van near
41 her home, leered at her and frightened her into calling the police. The
42 man had allegedly intended to commit a sexual assault against her after
43 being enticed into coming to her home by a message he thought she
44 had posted in an Internet chat room. In actuality the message had not
45 been posted by the woman, who knew nothing about it, but according

1 to prosecutors, had been posted by Jonathan Gilberti, who had posed
2 as the woman in the chat room. Mr. Gilberti had allegedly posted the
3 woman's name, address, physical description and the hours she would
4 likely be home alone, saying that "she" was inviting men to come to
5 her home to rape her.

6 The bill, which contains language similar to that in N.J.S.A.2C:13-6
7 concerning luring or enticing a child, would apply to persons who lure
8 or entice an adult in order to commit a crime against that adult, as well
9 as to persons who lure or entice an adult in order to have that adult
10 carry out the commission of a crime against a third person.

11 The bill provides that it shall not be deemed to preclude, if the
12 evidence so warrants, an indictment or conviction for attempted
13 kidnapping or for any other crime or offense.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2864

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 2004

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2864.

This bill would make it a crime of the third degree for a person to attempt, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice a person into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area, or to meet or appear at any place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense with or against the person who was lured or enticed or against any other person.

The bill, which contains language similar to that in N.J.S.A.2C:13-6 concerning luring or enticing a child, would apply to persons who lure or entice an adult in order to commit a crime against that adult, as well as to persons who lure or entice an adult in order to have that adult carry out the commission of a crime against a third person. The provisions of the bill would not preclude, if the evidence warrants, an indictment or conviction for attempted kidnapping or for any other crime or offense.

This bill was prompted by a case in Wood-Ridge where prosecutors say that a woman was menaced by a stranger who parked his van near her home, leered at her and frightened her into calling the police. The man had allegedly intended to commit a sexual assault against her after being enticed into coming to her home by a message he thought she had posted in an Internet chat room. In actuality the message had not been posted by the woman, who knew nothing about it, but according to prosecutors, had been posted by Jonathan Gilberti, who had posed as the woman in the chat room. Mr. Gilberti had allegedly posted the woman's name, address, physical description and the hours she would likely be home alone, saying that "she" was inviting men to come to her home to rape her.

SENATE, No. 1429

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 29, 2004

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL SARLO

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Senator JOHN H. ADLER

District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Makes it a crime to lure or entice another for the purpose of committing a crime via electronic or any other means including the Internet; adds as an aggravating factor that the defendant used the Internet to commit the crime.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/7/2004)

1 AN ACT concerning luring or enticing another, amending N.J.S.
2 2C:44-1 and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. (New section) A person commits a crime of the third degree if
8 he attempts, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice
9 another person to meet or appear at any place, with a purpose to
10 commit a criminal offense against any person.

11 "Electronic means" as used in this section includes, but is not
12 limited to, the Internet. "Internet" means the international computer
13 network of both federal and non-federal interoperable packet switched
14 data networks.

15 Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other law,
16 a conviction under this section shall not merge with a conviction of
17 any other criminal offense, nor shall such other conviction merge with
18 a conviction under this section, and the court shall impose separate
19 sentences upon each violation of this section and any other criminal
20 offense. The court may not suspend or make any other non-custodial
21 disposition of any person sentenced pursuant to this section.

22 Nothing in this act shall preclude an indictment and conviction for
23 any other offense defined by the laws of this State.

24
25 2. N.J.S. 2C:44-1 is amended to read as follows:

26 2C:44-1. Criteria for Withholding or Imposing Sentence of
27 Imprisonment. a. In determining the appropriate sentence to be
28 imposed on a person who has been convicted of an offense, the court
29 shall consider the following aggravating circumstances:

30 (1) The nature and circumstances of the offense, and the role of the
31 actor therein, including whether or not it was committed in an
32 especially heinous, cruel, or depraved manner;

33 (2) The gravity and seriousness of harm inflicted on the victim,
34 including whether or not the defendant knew or reasonably should
35 have known that the victim of the offense was particularly vulnerable
36 or incapable of resistance due to advanced age, ill-health, or extreme
37 youth, or was for any other reason substantially incapable of exercising
38 normal physical or mental power of resistance;

39 (3) The risk that the defendant will commit another offense;

40 (4) A lesser sentence will depreciate the seriousness of the
41 defendant's offense because it involved a breach of the public trust
42 under chapters 27 and 30, or the defendant took advantage of a
43 position of trust or confidence to commit the offense;

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (5) There is a substantial likelihood that the defendant is involved
2 in organized criminal activity;

3 (6) The extent of the defendant's prior criminal record and the
4 seriousness of the offenses of which he has been convicted;

5 (7) The defendant committed the offense pursuant to an agreement
6 that he either pay or be paid for the commission of the offense and the
7 pecuniary incentive was beyond that inherent in the offense itself;

8 (8) The defendant committed the offense against a police or other
9 law enforcement officer, correctional employee or fireman, acting in
10 the performance of his duties while in uniform or exhibiting evidence
11 of his authority; the defendant committed the offense because of the
12 status of the victim as a public servant; or the defendant committed the
13 offense against a sports official, athletic coach or manager, acting in
14 or immediately following the performance of his duties or because of
15 the person's status as a sports official, coach or manager;

16 (9) The need for deterring the defendant and others from violating
17 the law;

18 (10) The offense involved fraudulent or deceptive practices
19 committed against any department or division of State government;

20 (11) The imposition of a fine, penalty or order of restitution without
21 also imposing a term of imprisonment would be perceived by the
22 defendant or others merely as part of the cost of doing business, or as
23 an acceptable contingent business or operating expense associated
24 with the initial decision to resort to unlawful practices;

25 (12) The defendant committed the offense against a person who he
26 knew or should have known was 60 years of age or older, or disabled;
27 [and]

28 (13) The defendant, while in the course of committing or attempting
29 to commit the crime, including the immediate flight therefrom, used or
30 was in possession of a stolen motor vehicle; and

31 (14) The defendant, by electronic or other means, including the
32 Internet, committed the offense against a person.

33 As used in this paragraph, "electronic means" includes, but is not
34 limited to, the Internet. "Internet" means the international computer
35 network of both federal and non-federal interoperable packet switched
36 data networks.

37 b. In determining the appropriate sentence to be imposed on a
38 person who has been convicted of an offense, the court may properly
39 consider the following mitigating circumstances:

40 (1) The defendant's conduct neither caused nor threatened serious
41 harm;

42 (2) The defendant did not contemplate that his conduct would cause
43 or threaten serious harm;

44 (3) The defendant acted under a strong provocation;

45 (4) There were substantial grounds tending to excuse or justify the
46 defendant's conduct, though failing to establish a defense;

- 1 (5) The victim of the defendant's conduct induced or facilitated its
2 commission;
- 3 (6) The defendant has compensated or will compensate the victim
4 of his conduct for the damage or injury that he sustained, or will
5 participate in a program of community service;
- 6 (7) The defendant has no history of prior delinquency or criminal
7 activity or has led a law-abiding life for a substantial period of time
8 before the commission of the present offense;
- 9 (8) The defendant's conduct was the result of circumstances
10 unlikely to recur;
- 11 (9) The character and attitude of the defendant indicate that he is
12 unlikely to commit another offense;
- 13 (10) The defendant is particularly likely to respond affirmatively to
14 probationary treatment;
- 15 (11) The imprisonment of the defendant would entail excessive
16 hardship to himself or his dependents;
- 17 (12) The willingness of the defendant to cooperate with law
18 enforcement authorities;
- 19 (13) The conduct of a youthful defendant was substantially
20 influenced by another person more mature than the defendant.
- 21 c. (1) A plea of guilty by a defendant or failure to so plead shall not
22 be considered in withholding or imposing a sentence of imprisonment.
- 23 (2) When imposing a sentence of imprisonment the court shall
24 consider the defendant's eligibility for release under the law governing
25 parole, including time credits awarded pursuant to Title 30 of the
26 Revised Statutes, in determining the appropriate term of imprisonment.
- 27 d. Presumption of imprisonment. The court shall deal with a
28 person who has been convicted of a crime of the first or second degree
29 by imposing a sentence of imprisonment unless, having regard to the
30 character and condition of the defendant, it is of the opinion that his
31 imprisonment would be a serious injustice which overrides the need to
32 deter such conduct by others. Notwithstanding the provisions of
33 subsection e. of this section, the court shall deal with a person who has
34 been convicted of theft of a motor vehicle or of the unlawful taking of
35 a motor vehicle and who has previously been convicted of either
36 offense by imposing a sentence of imprisonment unless, having regard
37 to the character and condition of the defendant, it is of the opinion that
38 his imprisonment would be a serious injustice which overrides the need
39 to deter such conduct by others.
- 40 e. The court shall deal with a person convicted of an offense other
41 than a crime of the first or second degree, who has not previously been
42 convicted of an offense, without imposing a sentence of imprisonment
43 unless, having regard to the nature and circumstances of the offense
44 and the history, character and condition of the defendant, it is of the
45 opinion that his imprisonment is necessary for the protection of the
46 public under the criteria set forth in subsection a., except that this

1 subsection shall not apply if the person is convicted of any of the
2 following crimes of the third degree: theft of a motor vehicle; unlawful
3 taking of a motor vehicle; eluding; if the person is convicted of a crime
4 of the third degree constituting use of a false government document
5 in violation of subsection c. of section 1 of P.L.1983, c.565
6 (C.2C:21-2.1); if the person is convicted of a crime of the third degree
7 constituting distribution, manufacture or possession of an item
8 containing personal identifying information in violation of subsection
9 b. of section 6 of P.L.2003, c.184 (C.2C:21-17.3); or if the person is
10 convicted of a crime of the third or fourth degree constituting bias
11 intimidation in violation of N.J.S.2C:16-1; or if the person is convicted
12 of a crime of the third or fourth degree under the provisions of section
13 1 or 2 of P.L.1997, c.111 (C.2C:11-5.1 or 2C:12-1.1).

14 f. Presumptive Sentences. (1) Except for the crime of murder,
15 unless the preponderance of aggravating or mitigating factors, as set
16 forth in subsections a. and b., weighs in favor of a higher or lower
17 term within the limits provided in N.J.S.2C:43-6, when a court
18 determines that a sentence of imprisonment is warranted, it shall
19 impose sentence as follows:

20 (a) To a term of 20 years for aggravated manslaughter or kidnaping
21 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:13-1 when the
22 offense constitutes a crime of the first degree;

23 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection to a term
24 of 15 years for a crime of the first degree;

25 (c) To a term of seven years for a crime of the second degree;

26 (d) To a term of four years for a crime of the third degree; and

27 (e) To a term of nine months for a crime of the fourth degree.

28 In imposing a minimum term pursuant to 2C:43-6b., the sentencing
29 court shall specifically place on the record the aggravating factors set
30 forth in this section which justify the imposition of a minimum term.

31 Unless the preponderance of mitigating factors set forth in
32 subsection b. weighs in favor of a lower term within the limits
33 authorized, sentences imposed pursuant to 2C:43-7a.(1) shall have a
34 presumptive term of life imprisonment. Unless the preponderance of
35 aggravating and mitigating factors set forth in subsections a. and b.
36 weighs in favor of a higher or lower term within the limits authorized,
37 sentences imposed pursuant to 2C:43-7a.(2) shall have a presumptive
38 term of 50 years' imprisonment; sentences imposed pursuant to
39 2C:43-7a.(3) shall have a presumptive term of 15 years' imprisonment;
40 and sentences imposed pursuant to 2C:43-7a.(4) shall have a
41 presumptive term of seven years' imprisonment.

42 In imposing a minimum term pursuant to 2C:43-7b., the sentencing
43 court shall specifically place on the record the aggravating factors set
44 forth in this section which justify the imposition of a minimum term.

45 (2) In cases of convictions for crimes of the first or second degree
46 where the court is clearly convinced that the mitigating factors

1 substantially outweigh the aggravating factors and where the interest
2 of justice demands, the court may sentence the defendant to a term
3 appropriate to a crime of one degree lower than that of the crime for
4 which he was convicted. If the court does impose sentence pursuant
5 to this paragraph, or if the court imposes a noncustodial or
6 probationary sentence upon conviction for a crime of the first or
7 second degree, such sentence shall not become final for 10 days in
8 order to permit the appeal of such sentence by the prosecution.

9 g. Imposition of Noncustodial Sentences in Certain Cases. If the
10 court, in considering the aggravating factors set forth in subsection a.,
11 finds the aggravating factor in paragraph a.(2) or a.(12) and does not
12 impose a custodial sentence, the court shall specifically place on the
13 record the mitigating factors which justify the imposition of a
14 noncustodial sentence.

15 h. Except as provided in section 2 of P.L.1993, c.123
16 (C.2C:43-11), the presumption of imprisonment as provided in
17 subsection d. of this section shall not preclude the admission of a
18 person to the Intensive Supervision Program, established pursuant to
19 the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey.
20 (cf: P.L.2003, c.184, s.4).

21

22 3. This act shall take effect immediately .

23

24

25

STATEMENT

26

27 This bill would make it a crime of the third degree for a person to
28 attempt, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice another
29 person to meet or appear at any place, with a purpose to commit a
30 criminal offense against any person. In addition, the bill would add, as
31 another aggravating factor for the court to consider in determining a
32 sentence, whether the defendant used the Internet to commit the
33 offense.

34 This bill was prompted by a case in Wood-Ridge where prosecutors
35 say that a woman was menaced by a stranger who parked his van near
36 her home, leered at her and frightened her into calling the police. The
37 man had allegedly intended to commit a sexual assault against her after
38 being enticed into coming to her home by a message he thought she
39 had posted in an Internet chat room. In actuality the message had not
40 been posted by the woman, who knew nothing about it, but according
41 to prosecutors, had been posted by Jonathan Gilberti, who had posed
42 as the woman in the chat room. Mr. Gilberti had allegedly posted the
43 woman's name, address, physical description and the hours she would
44 likely be home alone, saying that "she" was inviting men to come to
45 her home to rape her.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1429

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 6, 2004

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1429.

This bill as introduced made it a crime of the third degree for a person to attempt, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice another person to meet or appear at any place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense against any person.

This bill was prompted by a case in Wood-Ridge where prosecutors say that a woman was menaced by a stranger who parked his van near her home, leered at her and frightened her into calling the police. The man had allegedly intended to commit a sexual assault against her after being enticed into coming to her home by a message he thought she had posted in an Internet chat room. In actuality the message had not been posted by the woman, who knew nothing about it, but according to prosecutors, had been posted by Jonathan Gilberti, who had posed as the woman in the chat room. Mr. Gilberti had allegedly posted the woman's name, address, physical description and the hours she would likely be home alone, saying that "she" was inviting men to come to her home to rape her.

As originally introduced, section 2 of the bill had provided that, in determining sentencing for any criminal offense, the court would consider as an additional aggravating factor whether the defendant used the Internet to commit the offense. This provision was deleted by the committee amendments.

The committee also amended the bill to add language similar to that in N.J.S.A.2C:13-6, which concerns luring or enticing a child. Because this bill would apply to persons who lure or entice an adult in order to commit a crime against that adult, as well as to persons who lure or entice an adult in order to have that adult carry out the commission of a crime against a third person, the amendments add language clarifying the provisions of the bill concerning the location where the luring takes place. As amended by the committee, the bill applies to persons who attempt to lure or entice a person "into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area," as well as any other place. The amendments clarify that the criminal purpose contemplated by the bill is "to commit a criminal offense with or against the person lured or

enticed or against any other person."

The amendments also provide that the word "structure" has the meaning set out in N.J.S.A.2C:13-6 (any building, room, ship, vessel or airplane and any place adapted for overnight accommodation of persons).

Finally, the amendments clarify that the bill shall not be deemed to preclude, if the evidence so warrants, an indictment or conviction for attempted kidnapping or for any other crime or offense. As originally introduced, the bill had provided that it shall not be deemed to preclude "an indictment and conviction for any other offense defined by the laws of this State" but the amended language again parallels N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6.

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Contact: Kelley Heck
609-777-2600

RELEASE: January 18, 2005

Codey Signs Bill Cracking Down on Internet Predators

Thanks to Wood-Ridge Mother, New Law Makes Internet Luring a Crime

(WOOD-RIDGE) – Acting Governor Richard J. Codey today signed Assembly bill A2864, making it illegal to lure someone over the Internet into committing a crime.

“The Internet has revolutionized the world and brought so many benefits to so many people,” said Codey. “But it can have a darker side. And unfortunately our laws don’t always keep up with technology or the criminal mind.

“This bill changes that and sends a strong message to Internet predators – ‘you will be punished.’”

The bill was crafted after Wood-Ridge resident Patricia (Trish) Barteck, a mother of three, was menaced by a stranger who had intended to sexually assault her. The stranger had been enticed into coming to her home by a message he thought she had posted on the Internet. In actuality, the message was posted by a man posing as her in a chat room.

New Jersey laws did not address this specific offense. State law outlawed child luring, but was silent on adult luring, forcing prosecutors to use old statutes to charge the perpetrator.

“We must work to protect all of our citizens from people that use the Internet as a weapon,” said bill sponsor Sen. Paul A. Sarlo (D-Bergen, Essex, Passaic). “Currently, it is a second degree crime to lure or entice a child for the purpose of committing a criminal offense, but there is nothing to protect our adult citizens. This initiative makes it possible to prosecute those who lure adults.”

The bill’s other sponsors are Assemblyman Frederick Scalera (D-Bergen, Essex, Passaic), Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein (D-Mercer, Middlesex), Assemblyman Joseph Vas (D-Middlesex), and Sen. John H. Adler (D-Camden).

“While the Internet provides a vast array of information and opportunities for enrichment, it also exposes people to a new world of online dangers,” said Scalera. “Law enforcement needs every possible tool in their arsenal to combat the depraved individuals who would place innocent victims in harm’s way by posting personal information in chat rooms or other publicly-accessible venues.”

Barteck invited Codey to sign the bill at her home as way of showing she is not a victim,

but an advocate.

“Part of why I’m doing this, is to reclaim my life,” Bartech said. “But just as importantly people need to be aware that when in the wrong hands, the Internet is a weapon. I’m hopeful this is the beginning, not only for the state of New Jersey, but for the United States, in realizing how dangerous the Internet can be.”