



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 556

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5555

House of Representatives, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 54-240 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Address confidentiality program" or "program" means the
5 program established pursuant to this chapter;

6 (2) "Agency" has the same meaning as "public agency" or "agency", as
7 provided in section 1-200;

8 (3) "Application assistant" means a person authorized by the
9 Secretary of the State to assist applicants in the completion of
10 applications for program participation;

11 (4) "Authorized personnel" means an employee in the office of the
12 Secretary of the State who has been designated by the Secretary of the
13 State, or an employee of an agency who has been designated by the chief
14 executive officer of such agency, to process and have access to records
15 pertaining to a program participant, including, but not limited to, voter
16 registration applications, voting records and marriage records;

17 (5) "Certification card" means a card issued by the Secretary of the
18 State pursuant to section 54-240d;

19 (6) "Confidential address" means a program participant's address or
20 addresses as listed on such participant's application for program
21 participation that are not to be disclosed, including such participant's
22 residential address in this state and work and school addresses in this
23 state, if any;

24 (7) "Family violence" has the same meaning as provided in section
25 46b-38a;

26 (8) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as
27 provided in section 52-571m;

28 [(8)] (9) "Injury or risk of injury to a child" means any act or conduct
29 that constitutes a violation of section 53-21;

30 [(9)] (10) "Kidnapping" means any act that constitutes a violation of
31 section 53a-92, 53a-92a, 53a-94 or 53a-94a;

32 [(10)] (11) "Law enforcement agency" means the office of the Attorney
33 General, the office of the Chief State's Attorney, the Division of State
34 Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
35 Protection or any municipal police department;

36 [(11)] (12) "Marriage records" means an application for a marriage
37 license, an issued marriage license, a license certificate or other
38 documents related thereto;

39 [(12)] (13) "Program address" means the post office box number and

40 fictitious street address assigned to a program participant by the
41 Secretary of the State;

42 [(13)] (14) "Program participant" or "participant" means any person
43 certified by the Secretary of the State to participate in the address
44 confidentiality program;

45 [(14)] (15) "Record" has the same meaning as "public records or files"
46 as provided in section 1-200;

47 (16) "Reproductive health care services" has the same meaning as
48 provided in section 52-571m;

49 [(15)] (17) "Sexual assault" means any act that constitutes a violation
50 of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
51 January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
52 53a-73a;

53 [(16)] (18) "Stalking" means any act that constitutes a violation of
54 section 53a-181c, 53a-181d or 53a-181e; and

55 [(17)] (19) "Trafficking in persons" means any act that constitutes a
56 violation of section 53a-192a.

57 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 54-240a of the general statutes is
58 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
59 *1, 2026*):

60 (a) There shall be an address confidentiality program established in
61 the office of the Secretary of the State to provide a substitute mailing
62 address for any person who wishes to keep such person's residential
63 address confidential because of safety concerns and:

64 (1) [has] Has been a victim of (A) family violence, (B) injury or risk of
65 injury to a child, (C) kidnapping, (D) sexual assault, (E) stalking, (F)
66 trafficking in persons, or (G) child abuse or neglect, where such abuse
67 or neglect was substantiated by the Department of Children and
68 Families and was the basis for the issuance of a restraining order under

69 section 46b-15 or civil protection order under section 46b-16a; [, or]

70 (2) [a termination of parental rights was granted] The safety concerns
71 relate to another person whose parental rights were terminated in a
72 proceeding pursuant to section 45a-717 or 46b-129; or

73 (3) Is a person engaged in the provision, facilitation or promotion of
74 reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care
75 services.

76 Sec. 3. Section 54-240b of the general statutes is repealed and the
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

78 (a) An adult person, a guardian or conservator of the person acting
79 on behalf of an adult person, or a parent or guardian acting on behalf of
80 a minor may apply to the Secretary of the State for participation in the
81 address confidentiality program and to have the Secretary of the State
82 designate a program address to serve as the address of the adult person
83 or of the minor. Each application for program participation, other than
84 the application of a person engaged in the provision, facilitation or
85 promotion of reproductive health care services or gender-affirming
86 health care services, shall be completed with the assistance of an
87 application assistant.

88 (b) The Secretary of the State shall make available a list of entities that
89 employ application assistants to assist applicants in applying for
90 participation in the address confidentiality program, provided no entity
91 shall be included on such list unless the entity has received sufficient
92 funds from federal or state sources as reimbursement for the reasonable
93 costs of implementing the provisions of this chapter.

94 Sec. 4. Section 54-240c of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

96 The Secretary of the State shall certify an applicant or the person on
97 whose behalf an application is made as a program participant if the
98 application is filed in the manner and on the application form prescribed
99 by the Secretary of the State and includes:

100 (1) A statement made under penalty of false statement, as provided
101 in section 53a-157b, that (A) the applicant or the person on whose behalf
102 the application is made [(A)] is a victim of (i) family violence, (ii) injury
103 or risk of injury to a minor, (iii) kidnapping, (iv) sexual assault, (v)
104 stalking, (vi) trafficking in persons, or (vii) child abuse or neglect, where
105 such abuse or neglect was substantiated by the Department of Children
106 and Families and was the basis for the issuance of a restraining order
107 under section 46b-15 or civil protection order under section 46b-16a, [or
108 (B) a termination of parental rights was granted] (B) the applicant or the
109 person on whose behalf the application is made has safety concerns that
110 relate to another person whose parental rights were terminated in a
111 proceeding pursuant to section 45a-717 or 46b-129, [and (C) the
112 applicant fears for the safety of the applicant, children living in the
113 applicant's home, person on whose behalf the application is made or
114 children living in the home of the person on whose behalf the
115 application is made] or (C) the applicant (i) is a person engaged in the
116 provision, facilitation or promotion of reproductive health care services
117 or gender-affirming health care services that are permitted under the
118 laws of this state, and (ii) is employed or volunteers for a reproductive
119 health care services entity or gender-affirming health care entity that has
120 been the target of threats, harassment or acts of violence within one year
121 preceding the date of the application;

122 (2) A statement made under penalty of false statement, as provided
123 in section 53a-157b, that (A) for an applicant described in subparagraph
124 (A) or (B) of subdivision (1) of this section, the applicant fears for the
125 safety of the applicant, any children living in the applicant's home, any
126 person on whose behalf the application is made or any children living
127 in the home of the person on whose behalf the application is made, or
128 (B) for an applicant described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of
129 this section, the applicant fears for the safety of the applicant or any
130 children living in the home of the applicant;

131 [(2)] (3) Documentation supporting the [statement] statements made
132 pursuant to [subdivision (1)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section;

133 [(3)] (4) A designation of the Secretary of the State as the agent of the
134 applicant or, if applicable, of the person on whose behalf the application
135 is made, for service of process and for receipt of first class mail;

136 [(4)] (5) The residential address in this state, the work and school
137 addresses in this state, if any, and the phone number or numbers, if
138 available, that are to remain confidential, but which may be used by the
139 Secretary of the State or authorized personnel to contact the applicant
140 or, if applicable, the person on whose behalf the application is made;
141 and

142 [(5)] (6) The application preparation date, the applicant's signature
143 and, if applicable, the signature of the application assistant who assisted
144 the applicant in completing the application.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	54-240
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	54-240a(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	54-240b
Sec. 4	October 1, 2026	54-240c

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a)(3), "gender-affirming care" was changed to "gender-affirming health care" for consistency with the defined term.

GAE Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill expands the Secretary of the State (SOTS) address confidentiality program to include individuals who provide reproductive or gender-affirming health services, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities, as SOTS has sufficient resources to handle the increase in workload.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5555*****AN ACT EXPANDING THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the secretary of the state's (SOTS) address confidentiality program to include individuals who have safety concerns and are involved in providing:

1. reproductive health care services (medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services related to the human reproductive system) or
2. gender-affirming health care services (supplies, care, and services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative, or supportive nature, including medication relating to the treatment of gender dysphoria and gender incongruence).

The bill makes changes to include these individuals in the program and makes other technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM EXPANSION***Newly Covered Applicant Groups***

The bill expands who may apply for the address confidentiality program (see BACKGROUND) to include a person who has safety concerns and is engaged in providing, facilitating, or promoting reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services.

The bill also clarifies that current law's provision for address confidentiality related to the termination of parental rights applies when

someone has safety concerns related to another person whose parental rights were terminated and makes conforming changes to application requirements.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the program is also available to a victim of family violence, injury or risk of injury to a child, kidnapping, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking in persons, or child abuse or neglect.

Application Assistant

During the application process for the program, current law requires an application assistant, authorized by SOTS, to assist with completing the application. The bill does not require a person engaged in providing, facilitating, or promoting reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care to complete the application with an application assistant.

Certification Process

To certify a program application, applicants must make a statement under penalty of false statement. The bill requires a statement made under penalty of false statement from the newly covered applicants stating the applicant (1) engages in providing, facilitating, or promoting reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care permitted under state law, and (2) is employed or volunteers for a reproductive health care services entity or a gender-affirming health care entity that has been the target of threats, harassment, or violent acts within one year before the application date. The bill also requires that the statement include that the applicant fears for the safety of the applicant or children living in the applicant's home.

BACKGROUND

Address Confidentiality Program

An eligible individual can apply to SOTS' address confidentiality program to receive a program mailing address to keep his or her residential address confidential due to safety concerns.

Once an applicant to the program is certified by SOTS, he or she receives the program address and a certification card. SOTS receives any mail and service of process sent to the program address and forwards it to the participant’s confidential address free of charge.

Participants may generally have (1) their street addresses omitted from voter registries, (2) correspondence from state agencies sent to the substitute address, and (3) their marriage records kept confidential. Participants may renew their certification every four years. SOTS may cancel a participant’s certification under certain circumstances, but a canceled participant may reapply at any time.

Related Bills

sSB 295, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, among other things, expands the address confidentiality program eligibility to people engaged in the provision, facilitation, or promotion of a legally protected health care activity (which includes reproductive and gender-affirming health care services).

sSB 485, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, expands who must comply with the SOTS address confidentiality program and creates the real property address confidentiality program notice to shield program participants’ real property records from public inspection, with exceptions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 5 (03/20/2026)