
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)