

**SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair**  
**2025-2026 Regular Session**

AB 2235 (Pacheco)  
Version: April 9, 2026  
Hearing Date: June 23, 2026  
Fiscal: Yes  
Urgency: No  
AM

**SUBJECT**

The Judicial Home Security Act

**DIGEST**

This bill establishes the Judicial Home Security Act, to be administered by the Attorney General, to allow judicial officers and their families to shield their home addresses from public disclosure, as provided.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Threats on public officials, including judges, are on the rise causing legitimate fear and concern for the safety of themselves and their families. The recent events in Minnesota where elected politicians and their spouses were targeted in their homes and, in one instance, tragically killed, as well as the heartbreaking incident in 2020, in which the son of a federal judge in New Jersey was shot and killed when he answered the door to their home, provide a stark reminder that serving in public office poses risks for those who choose to serve and their families.<sup>1</sup> Tragically, in 2020 the son of a federal judge in New Jersey was shot and killed when he answered the door to their home. This bill seeks to establish the Judicial Home Security Act to allow judicial officers and their families to shield their home addresses from public disclosure.

The bill is sponsored by the California Judges Association and supported by the Judicial Council of California. The bill in print is opposed unless amended by the California Records Association and the California Assessors' Association, which understand the concerns the bill is attempting to address, but have issues regarding the implementation of the bill and potential unintended consequences. In light of their concerns, the author

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<sup>1</sup> Steven Karnowski, et. al, *The man suspected of shooting 2 Minnesota lawmakers is in custody after surrendering to the police*, AP News, (June 16, 2025), available at <https://apnews.com/article/minnesota-lawmakers-shot-8ce70a94c9eb90688baaa1a71faef6cc>; Meredith Deliso, ABC News, *Suspected gunman who killed Judge Esther Salas' son disparaged her as a Latina*, (Jul. 21, 2020), available at <https://abcnews.com/US/suspect-deadly-shooting-called-federal-judge-esther-salas/story?id=71901734>.

has offered amendments to the bill that seem to address the opposition's concerns. This bill will analyze the bill as proposed to be amended. A mock-up of the amendments can be found at the end of the analysis. Should the bill pass this Committee, the bill will then be referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee. Due to timing, the amendments will be processed in the next Committee.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW**

#### Existing law:

- 1) Provides, pursuant to the California Constitution, that the people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business, and, therefore, the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies are required to be open to public scrutiny. (Cal. const. art. I, § 3(b)(1).)
  - a) Requires a statute to be broadly construed if it furthers the people's right of access, and narrowly construed if it limits the right of access. (Cal. const. art. I, § 3(b)(1).)
  - b) Requires a statute that limits the public's right of access to be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. (Cal. const. art. I, § 3(b)(1).)
- 2) Governs the disclosure of information collected and maintained by public agencies pursuant to the CPRA. (Gov. Code §§ 792.000 et seq.)
  - a) States that, the Legislature, mindful of the right of individuals to privacy, finds and declares that access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state. (Gov. Code § 7921.000.)
  - b) Defines "public records" as any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics. (Gov. Code § 7920.530.)
  - c) Defines "public agency" as any state or local agency. (Gov. Code § 7920.525(a).)
- 3) Provides that all public records are open to inspection at all times during the office hours of a state or local agency and every person has a right to inspect any public record, unless the record is exempt from public disclosure. Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be available for inspection by any person requesting the record after deletion of the portions that are exempted by law. (Gov. Code § 7922.525.)
  - a) Some records are prohibited from being disclosed and other records are permissively exempted from being disclosed. (See e.g. Gov. Code §§ 7920.505 & 7922.200.)

- b) There are several general categories of documents or information that are permissively exempt from disclosure under the CPRA essentially due to the character of the information. The exempt information can be withheld by the public agency with custody of the information, but it also may be disclosed if it is shown that the public's interest in disclosure outweighs the public's interest in non-disclosure of the information. (*CBS, Inc. v. Block* (1986) 42 Cal.3d 646, at 652.).
- 4) Provides that a public agency may comply with the requirement in 3), above, by posting any public record on its website and, in response to a request for a public record posted on the website, directing a member of the public to the location on the website where the public record is posted. However, if after the public agency directs a member of the public to their website, that member of the public requests a copy of the public record due to an inability to access or reproduce the public record from the internet website, the public agency must promptly provide a copy of the public record, as specified. (Gov. Code § 7922.545.)
- 5) Prohibits a state or local agency from posting the address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of the individual. (Gov. Code § 7928.205.)
  - a) An "elected or appointed official" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: a state constitutional officer; a member of the Legislature; an active or retired judge, court commissioner, or judge of the State Bar Court; a district attorney; a public defender; a member of a city council; a member of a board of supervisors; an appointee of the Governor; an appointee of the Legislature; a mayor; a city attorney; a police chief or sheriff; a public safety official; a state administrative law judge; a federal judge or federal defender; a member of the United States Congress or appointee of the President of the United States; a judge of a federally recognized Indian tribe. (Gov. Code § 7920.500.)
- 6) Provides that for purposes of sentencing a person for a felony violation of criminal threats, the court may consider as an aggravating factor that the defendant willfully threatened to commit a crime that would result in the death or great bodily injury of a person the defendant knew to be a constitutional officer, member of the Legislature, judge, or court commissioner. (Penal Code § 422.)
- 7) Establishes an address confidentiality (or "Safe at Home") program within the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) in order to enable state and local agencies to both accept and respond to requests for public records without disclosing the changed name or address of a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Existing law permits any such adult victim, or parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person, to apply through a community-based victims' assistance program to have an address designated by the SOS as their substitute mailing address. (Gov. Code §§ 6205 et seq.)

- a) Allows reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers, and patients to apply to the address confidentiality program through a community-based victims' assistance program, as specified. (Gov. Code § 6215 et seq.)
- b) Allows public entity employees and contractors to apply to the address confidentiality program, as provided. (*Id.*)

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the Judicial Home Security Act, to be administered by the Attorney General, to allow judicial officers and their families to shield their home addresses from public disclosure.
  - a) Authorize an adult person domiciled in California to apply to the AG to be accepted into the program.
  - b) An accepted program participant may use an alternate mailing address or request shielding of public records consistent with the provisions of the bill.
  - c) A program participant may withdraw from program participation by submitting to the Attorney General written notification of withdrawal and the program participant's current identification card. Certification shall be terminated and notification forwarded to the appropriate state or local agency on the date of receipt of this notification.
  - d) A program participant may update their home address or alternate mailing address in the program by submitting to the Attorney General written notification of the same with the participant's current identification card. The Attorney General shall issue a new identification card.
  - e) The Attorney General shall commence accepting applications under the program beginning on April 1, 2027.
- 2) Authorizes the Attorney General to approve an application if it is filed in the manner and on the form prescribed by the Attorney General and if it contains all of the following.
  - a) Documentation showing that the individual is to commence employment as or is a judicial officer.
  - b) A sworn statement that the applicant fears for their safety or the safety of their family due to their employment as a judicial officer.
  - c) The alternate mailing address requested for substitution for any reference to the person's home address or a request for shielding of public records, including a list of all Document Types, Recording Numbers, and Assessor Parcel Numbers the judicial officer wishes to shield. The application shall include documentation issued by the United States Postal Service or the personal mailbox rental company confirming the mailbox is rented to the applicant or a household member of the applicant. The Attorney General shall not approve an application if the alternate mailing address is any address other than a post office box or personal mailbox, or if it is a post

- office box or mailbox rented by anyone other than the applicant or a household member of the applicant.
- d) The telephone numbers and email addresses where the applicant can be reached by the Attorney General.
  - e) The home address that the applicant requests not be disclosed because disclosure will increase the risk of harassment, threats, or violence against the applicant or their family.
  - f) The signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury and the date on which the applicant signed the application.
- 3) Requires the Attorney General to issue a certified program participant documentation that they are a certified program participant, which shall include, but not be limited to, both of the following:
- a) a program participant identification card listing their alternate mailing address; and
  - b) a standing authorization by the Attorney General for the program participant to request for shielding of public records where the home address is contained and use the alternate mailing address for all protections offered by the program.
- 4) Provides that a person who knowingly provides false or incorrect information upon making an application is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- 5) Authorizes the Attorney General to terminate a program participant's certification and invalidate the program participant's authorization card for any of the reasons listed below and requires the Attorney General to send written notification of the intended termination to the program participant. The program participant shall have 30 days in which to appeal the intended termination under procedures developed by the Attorney General.
- a) The program participant has failed to pay their annual program fee. Before terminating a participant's certification due to a lapse in payment, the Attorney General shall attempt to contact the participant by telephone and email, if available, to resolve the payment issue.
  - b) The Attorney General has been informed that another state agency has determined that false information was used in the application process to qualify as a program participant or that participation in the program is being used as a subterfuge to avoid detection of illegal or criminal activity or apprehension by law enforcement.
  - c) The program participant no longer resides at the most recent home address provided to the Attorney General and has not provided notice in writing of a change in address within 30 days of the change of their home address.
  - d) The United States Postal Service or the personal mailbox rental company responsible for the alternate mailing address of a program participant

- informs the Attorney General that the alternate mailing address is no longer rented in the name of the program participant or their household member.
- e) The program participant moves from their California place of residence to relocate out of state.
- 6) Requires the Attorney General to create, maintain, and update monthly a list that includes certain information for each current program participant and a list for former program participants, as provided.
  - 7) Requires state and local agencies to use a program participant's alternate mailing address for any reference to the program participant's home address when disclosing or releasing records or information that would otherwise contain the home address of a program participant in any format or medium, with certain specified exceptions.
  - 8) Requires a county assessor office and a county recorder office to shield the participant's public record when disclosing or releasing records or information that would otherwise contain the situs of the home address of a program participant in any format or medium, including real property deeds, real estate records, and any other records containing the home address of a program participant.
  - 9) Requires a county assessor office, when disclosing or releasing records or information that would otherwise contain the situs of the home address of a program participant in any format or medium, to substitute the program participant's alternate mailing address for the situs address on assessment rolls, maps, property ownership statements and records, and any other records containing the home address of a program participant.
  - 10) Requires a request for shielding to contain specified information, including all Document Types, Recording Numbers, and Assessor Parcel Numbers containing the home address of the participant and a sworn statement attesting to the accuracy of the information provided.
    - a) Program participants are responsible for notifying the Assessor and Recorder in writing when they are no longer participating in the program or no longer own a property that was previously identified to be shielded. Notification shall include the affected Document Types, Recording Numbers, and Assessor Parcel Numbers.
    - b) Upon receipt of a request for shielding the Recorder and Assessor shall have 5 business days to validate and shield the requested records.
    - c) Original documents shall only be made available to the participant, spouse or household member living at the property, or under certain specified circumstances.
    - d) Request for shielding shall be accompanied by payment of a County Board of Supervisors approved fee established to recover the cost of the programs

- implementation, maintenance and support. This fee shall not exceed the Recorder's or assessor's actual cost to verify, shield, maintain, and track requests for access of shielded records.
- e) The recorder and assessor shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of the bill and not be liable for failure to shield a program participant's home address or public records if the participant fails to comply with program requirements.
- 11) Prohibits a person or organization from publicly posting or displaying the home address of a program participant who has made a written demand of the person or organization.
- 12) A third-party data broker or aggregator shall not sell, license, trade, purchase, transfer, release, or otherwise share in any format or medium the home address of a program participant, including on the internet, unless such sale, license, trade, purchase, transfer, release, or other sharing is authorized under the California Consumer Privacy Act.
- 13) Makes Legislative findings and declarations regarding the need to limit access to public records.

### COMMENTS

1. Stated need for the bill

The author writes:

Violence and threats against judges have risen sharply, with thousands of incidents reported in recent years and a dramatic increase since 2015, leaving many judges and their families fearing for their safety. At the same time, judicial officers' home addresses remain easily accessible through public records and online databases, creating a direct pathway for bad actors to locate them and their families. Existing privacy protections in California are insufficient, as they do not effectively prevent the widespread dissemination of this sensitive information, especially when it originates from government sources. This gap leaves judges uniquely exposed to targeted harassment, intimidation, and potential violence at their homes.

AB 2235, the Judicial Home Security Act, addresses this urgent risk by allowing judges to use an alternate mailing address in public records while preserving legitimate access for business, legal, and law enforcement purposes. By replacing home addresses, the bill strikes a careful balance between transparency and safety, ensuring public records remain functional without compromising personal security. In light of the escalating threats and clear vulnerabilities, AB 2235 is a necessary and measured step to protect the judiciary and uphold the integrity of the justice system.

2. This bill establishes the Judicial Home Security Act

The author and sponsor of the bill report to the Committee that from 2020 to 2025, at least 310 threats against bench officers were reported to the California Highway Patrol Threat Assessment Center. The California Highway Patrol is charged with security of California's judicial officers through its Judicial Protection Section. As of March 2026, the year-to-date total is 20 threats. The sponsor argues that both the five-year total and the year-to-date total are far less than the actual number of violence or threats made against judicial officers in California because the data only includes state courts (as opposed to federal, tribal or administrative law courts) and the data only includes threats that have been self-reported by the state courts.

The sponsors of the bill, the California Judges Association, writes:

In recent years, violence and threats against judges have increased significantly nationwide. According to the U.S. Marshals Service, which is responsible for protecting federal judges, there were 5,873 threats and inappropriate communications directed at members of the judiciary between 2021 and 2022; overall there has been an alarming 400 percent increase since 2015. Courts and judicial officers have also been targeted through bomb threats to state court facilities and intimidation directed at judges handling controversial cases. Tragically, several violent incidents have underscored these risks, including the assassination of an Indiana judge and his wife earlier this year, the attempted murder of a Nevada district judge, and the murder of the son of a federal judge at her home in New Jersey. These incidents highlight the continuing need to strengthen safeguards that prevent the improper disclosure of the home addresses which can be used to target judges and their families.

To address the issue of increased threats, this bill seeks to establish a way for judicial officers to shield their home addresses in public documents. The bill establishes the program in the Attorney General's Office, instead of in the Secretary of State's Office like the Safe At Home Program. The author argues this program is different and therefore more appropriately placed in the Attorney General's office because it allows for shielding of a person's address by state and local agencies, including county recorders and assessors. The bill provides several exceptions for accessing or publicly posting the address of a program participant, such as if requested by a law enforcement agency or if a state or local agency is posting a legally required notice or publication.

3. Stakeholder statements

The California Judges Association, the sponsor of the bill, writes in support stating:

AB 2235 addresses this concern by allowing judicial officers to designate an alternate mailing address, such as a post office box or private mailbox, to be substituted

wherever their home address would otherwise appear in public records. State agencies would use the alternate mailing address when disclosing records that would otherwise reveal a judge's home address. For county recorders and assessors, based upon our ongoing conversations, proposed amendments specify the shielding of those property records with a judge's home address.

Importantly, the bill maintains appropriate transparency and legitimate access to records. Law enforcement agencies and certain regulated entities with a bona fide need for information, such as financial institutions, title companies, and attorneys involved in real estate transactions, may still access the home address when necessary for lawful purposes.

By protecting the home addresses of judicial officers and their families, AB 2235 helps reduce the risk of harassment, intimidation, and violence directed at judges outside the courthouse. Ensuring that judicial officers can carry out their duties without fear of retaliation in their homes strengthens judicial independence and promotes public confidence in the fair and impartial administration of justice.

The Judicial Council of California writes:

Assembly Bill 2235 promotes the safety and security of judges, which is a key legislative priority for the Judicial Council. Threats against judges appear to be increasing and there have been a number of high-profile incidents of violence against judges in other states that have made judges in California fear for their safety. That fear impinges on their ability to function with independence. AB 2235 is a narrowly tailored solution that will offer protection for judges, including federal judges, tribal judges, court commissioners, as well as former judges, in a manner similar to existing programs operated by the Secretary of State which protect victims of domestic violence as well as health care providers who have been targeted for providing abortions or gender affirming care.

The bill is opposed unless amended by the California Assessors' Association and the California Recorders Association. However, the proposed amendments, set forth below, seem to address many, if not all, of the concerns raised by the opposition.

The California Assessors' Association writes:

We believe that AB 2235 contains the foundation of a framework that considers this balance and we applaud the persistent efforts of the author. The establishment of the opt-in Judicial Home Security Program facilitated by the Attorney General's Office (AG) creates the cornerstone for a privacy protection system that can lead to success. Although the bill in its current form presents several challenges, we anticipate that a series of amendments could result in moving our position to one of neutrality or support.

Our position is predicated on administrative concerns that could significantly impact assessors' ability to effectively ensure compliance with public information requirements, as mandated by the Revenue and Taxation Code (R&T Code).

The California Recorders Association writes:

The County Recorders' Association of California greatly appreciates the collaboration and work done thus far with the author's office and sponsors of AB 2235 over the past several years. Through those conversations, we have shared amendments with both parties that we would respectfully request be taken into consideration. Those amendments do the following:

- Provides an alternate method of shielding for which recorder offices will shield public records containing the participants home address.
- Specifies that the individual may apply to the Attorney General to be accepted into the Judicial Home Security Program and upon receiving approval, participant must notify the county recorder of the document types they would like shielded, among providing identification and proof of authorization.
- Clarifies that for the purposes of not disrupting critical services such as real estate transactions, estate planning, legal reasons, etc., requestors must sign under penalty of perjury to view non-shielded documents as to not disrupt the real estate transaction processes.
- Adds that the program participant can withdraw from the program and would have to notify the government agency along with the document types that were previously shielded.
- Adds a County Board of Supervisors approved fee for recovery of costs incurred to implement this program.
- Provides indemnification clause.

### **SUPPORT**

California Judges Association (sponsor)  
Judicial Council of California

### **OPPOSITION**

California Assessors' Association  
California Recorders Association

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

Pending Legislation: AB 883 (Lowenthal, 2026) requires information about the accessible deletion mechanism to be provided to elected officials and judges, as specified. AB 883 is currently pending in this Committee.

Prior Legislation:

AB 343 (Pacheco, Ch. 142, Stats. 2025) expanded the definition of “elected or appointed official” under the California Public Records Act to include retired judges, court commissioners, federal judges, federal defenders, or judges of a federally recognized Indian tribe, and an appointee of a court to serve as children’s counsel in a family or dependency proceeding.

AB 1785 (Pacheco, Ch. 551, Stats. 2024) prohibited a state or local agency from publicly posting, as defined, the home address, telephone number, or both the name and assessor parcel number associated with the home address of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual.

**PRIOR VOTES**

Assembly Floor (Ayes 72, Noes 0)  
Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 15, Noes 0)  
Assembly Judiciary Committee (Ayes 12, Noes 0)

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**MOCK-UP OF AB 2235 (PACHECO) AS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED<sup>2</sup>**

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 6225) is added to Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, to read:

**CHAPTER 3.4. The Judicial Home Security Act**

**6225.** This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Judicial Home Security Act.

**6225.1.** The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The Legislature finds that persons employed as judicial officers in California are subject to an increased risk of threats or actual violence against themselves and their families. As public officials responsible for the functioning of the judicial system, judicial officers have a uniquely high level of exposure to the public and the criminal justice system. Persons and groups might attempt to subvert, delay, or otherwise impede the justice system by threatening or intimidating judicial officers. These individuals or groups may also threaten or take violent action against judicial officers or their families as retribution for past rulings or judicial actions. The threat of violence towards judicial officers and their families extends beyond the courtroom and into the home. The purpose of this chapter is to enable state and local agencies to respond to requests for public records without disclosing or referencing in any way the home addresses of judicial officers who are in the Judicial Home Security Program, to enable interagency cooperation with the Attorney General in providing home address confidentiality for these judicial officers, and to enable state and local agencies to substitute mailing addresses for any reference to home addresses of these judicial officers in records that are made public.

(b) The Legislature finds that judicial officers are subject to such serious and detrimental risks of threats and violence that the public interest in justice and fairness under the law clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of judicial officers' home addresses. Any reference to judicial officers' home addresses is thus entitled to exemption from the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1).

**6225.2.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

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<sup>2</sup> The amendments may include nonsubstantive changes as identified by Legislative Counsel.

(a) "Alternate mailing address" means a United States Postal Service post office box or personal mailbox provided by a private company.

(b) "Cohabitant" has the same meaning as in subdivision (b) of Section 18291 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(c) "Domicile" means a place of habitation as defined in Section 349 of the Elections Code.

(d) "Home address" includes any reference to all of the following, as specified on the individual's application to be a program participant under this chapter:

- (1) A property address.
- (2) A common street address.
- (3) An assessor's parcel number.
- (4) A property legal description.

(e) "Household member" means an adult person who resides at the same home address as the applicant or participant and is related to the applicant or participant by blood, marriage, registered domestic partnership, or adoption, or is a cohabitant of an applicant or participant.

(f) "Judicial officer" means a person who is currently employed or was formerly employed as any of the following:

- (1) A supreme court justice.
- (2) A court of appeal judge or justice.
- (3) A superior court or district court judge.
- (4) A municipal court judge.
- (5) A court commissioner or court magistrate.
- (6) A federal, state, or local agency judge.
- (7) A tribal judge.

**(8) *A state bar court judge.***

(g) "Program participant" means a person certified as a program participant under this chapter.

**(h) "Shielding" means a process by which an agency has removed public access to an image which contains the program participants home address.**

**6225.3.** (a) An adult person who is domiciled in California may apply to the Attorney General to **be accepted into the Judicial Home Security Program. An accepted program participant may use an alternate mailing address or request shielding of public records consistent with the provisions of this chapter.** ~~have a designated alternate mailing address substituted for any reference to the person's home address in records that are made public.~~ The Attorney General shall approve an application if it is filed in the manner and on the form prescribed by the Attorney General and if it contains all of the following:

- (1) Documentation showing that the individual is to commence employment as or is a judicial officer.

(2) A sworn statement that the applicant fears for their safety or the safety of their family due to their employment as a judicial officer.

(3) (A) The alternate mailing address requested for substitution for any reference to the person's home address *or a request for shielding of public records, including a list of all Document Types, Recording Numbers, and Assessor Parcel Numbers the judicial officer wishes to shield* in public records. The application shall include documentation issued by the United States Postal Service or the personal mailbox rental company confirming the mailbox is rented to the applicant or a household member of the applicant.

(B) The Attorney General shall not approve an application if the alternate mailing address is any address other than a post office box or personal mailbox, or if it is a post office box or mailbox rented by anyone other than the applicant or a household member of the applicant.

(4) The telephone numbers and email addresses where the applicant can be reached by the Attorney General.

(5) The home address that the applicant requests not be disclosed because disclosure will increase the risk of harassment, threats, or violence against the applicant or their family.

(6) The signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury and the date on which the applicant signed the application.

(b) Applications shall be filed with the office of the Attorney General.

(c) (1) Submitted applications shall be accompanied by payment of a fee to be determined by the Attorney General. This fee shall not exceed the actual costs of enrolling in the program.

(2) The Attorney General may assess an annual fee to a program participant in an amount to defray the actual costs of maintaining this program and to reimburse the General Fund for any amounts expended from that fund for the purposes of this chapter.

(d) The Judicial Home Security Program Fund is hereby created in the General Fund. All moneys collected by the Attorney General pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the fund. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund are available for the administration of the program established pursuant to this chapter.

(e) Upon filing a properly completed application, the Attorney General shall certify the applicant as a program participant. Program participants shall be certified for life, unless and until the certification is withdrawn or terminated pursuant to Section 6225.4.

(f) The Attorney General shall issue a certified program participant documentation that they are a certified program participant, which shall include, but not be limited to, both of the following:

(1) A program participant identification card listing their alternate mailing address.

(2) A standing authorization by the Attorney General for the program participant to **request for shielding of public records where the home address is contained and** use the alternate mailing address for all protections offered by the program.

(g) A person who knowingly provides false or incorrect information upon making an application is guilty of a misdemeanor. A notice shall be printed in bold type and in a conspicuous location on the face of the application informing the applicant of the penalties for a violation of this subdivision.

(h) A program participant may update their home address or alternate mailing address in the program by submitting to the Attorney General written notification of the same with the participant's current identification card. The Attorney General shall issue a new identification card.

**6225.4.** (a) A program participant may withdraw from program participation by submitting to the Attorney General written notification of withdrawal and the program participant's current identification card. Certification shall be terminated **and notification forwarded to the appropriate state or local agency** on the date of receipt of this notification.

(b) The Attorney General may terminate a program participant's certification and invalidate the program participant's authorization card for any of the following reasons:

(1) The program participant has failed to pay their annual program fee. Before terminating a participant's certification due to a lapse in payment, the Attorney General shall attempt to contact the participant by telephone and email, if available, to resolve the payment issue.

(2) The Attorney General has been informed that another state agency has determined that false information was used in the application process to qualify as a program participant or that participation in the program is being used as a subterfuge to avoid detection of illegal or criminal activity or apprehension by law enforcement.

(3) The program participant no longer resides at the most recent home address provided to the Attorney General and has not provided notice in writing of a change in address within 30 days of the change of their home address.

(4) The United States Postal Service or the personal mailbox rental company responsible for the alternate mailing address of a program participant informs the Attorney General that the alternate mailing address is no longer rented in the name of the program participant or their household member.

(5) The program participant moves from their California place of residence to relocate out of state.

(c) If intended termination is based on any of the reasons under subdivision (b), the Attorney General shall send written

notification of the intended termination to the program participant. The program participant shall have 30 days in which to appeal the intended termination under procedures developed by the Attorney General.

**6225.5.** (a) (1) The Attorney General shall create, maintain, and update monthly a list that includes all of the following information for each current program participant:

(A) Name.

(B) County of residence.

(C) Designated alternate mailing address.

(2) The list shall be publicly available for compliance purposes.

(b) The Attorney General shall create, maintain, and update monthly a list that includes former program participants who are no longer in the program, regardless of the reason. The list shall be publicly available to state and local agencies and third party data brokers and aggregators for compliance purposes.

**6225.6.** (a) When disclosing or releasing records or information that would otherwise contain the home address of a program participant in any format or medium, state and local agencies shall substitute use the program participant's alternate mailing address for any reference to the program participant's home address.

(b) When disclosing or releasing records or information that would otherwise contain the situs of the home address of a program participant in any format or medium, as part of a request for shielding, a county assessor office and a county recorder office shall shield the participant's public record substitute the program participant's alternate mailing address for the situs address on including real property deeds, real estate records, and any other records containing the home address of a program participant. Any request for shielding must contain the following:

(1) A list including all Document Types, Recording Numbers, and Assessor Parcel Numbers containing the home address of the participant.

(2) A copy of the program participant's identification card and approved authorization from the Attorney General.

(3) A signed sworn statement attesting to the accuracy of the information provided.

(c) A program participant may submit a request to update the list of documents to be shielded in the program by complying with the requirements of 6225.6(b).

(d) Program participants are responsible for notifying the Assessor and Recorder in writing when they are no longer participating in the program or no longer own a property that was previously identified to be shielded. Notification shall include the affected Document Types, Recording Numbers, and Assessor Parcel Numbers.

**(e) Upon receipt of a request for shielding the Recorder and Assessor shall have 5 business days to validate and shield the requested records.**

**(f) Original document shall only be made available to the participant, spouse or household member living at the property, or under the circumstances defined in subdivision (a) of Section 6225.8.**

**(g) Request for shielding shall be accompanied by payment of a County Board of Supervisor approved fee established to recover the cost of the programs implementation, maintenance and support. This fee shall not exceed the Recorder's or Assessor's actual cost to verify, shield, maintain, and track requests for access of shielded records.**

**(h) Recorder and Assessor shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of Sections 6225.6 thru 6225.8 and shall not be liable for failure to shield a program participants home address or public record if the participant fails to comply with the requirements set forth in subdivision (b) of Section 6225.6.**

**(i) When disclosing or releasing records or information that would otherwise contain the situs of the home address of a program participant in any format or medium, a county assessor office shall substitute the program participant's alternate mailing address for the situs address on assessment rolls, maps, property ownership statements and records, and any other records containing the home address of a program participant**

**6225.7.** When a program participant leaves the program, regardless of the reason, the Attorney General and state and local agencies shall retain all records relating to that program participant for at least three years from departure.

**6225.8.** (a) The Attorney General and state and local agencies shall not allow disclosure or release of a program participant's home address except under either **any** of the following circumstances:

(1) If requested by any of the following entities:

(A) A law enforcement agency, to the law enforcement agency.

(B) A consumer reporting agency, as defined in Section 1681a of Title 15 of the United States Code.

(C) A financial institution subject to the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Public Law 106-102) and regulations implementing that act.

(D) A title company.

(E) An attorney representing a client in any of the following matters:

(i) Estate planning.

(ii) Judgment enforcement.

(iii) Bankruptcy debtor or trustee representation.

(iv) A real estate transaction.

(F) A real estate licensee, as defined in Section 10014 of the Business and Professions Code.

(2) If directed by a court order, to a person identified in the order.

**(3) A state or local agency posting a legally required notice or publication of a program participant.**

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed as prohibiting an address to name search of real estate records, meaning a search of real estate records or address information based solely on a property address. This section is intended to expressly prohibit disclosure or release of a home address based on a program participant's name, including a search of real estate records or address information based on a program participant's name.

**6225.9.** (a) A person or organization shall not publicly post or display the home address of a program participant who has made a written demand of that person or organization, including on the internet.

(b) A third-party data broker or aggregator shall not sell, license, trade, purchase, transfer, release, or otherwise share in any format or medium the home address of a program participant, including on the internet **unless such sale, license, trade, purchase, transfer, release, or other sharing is an activity or purposes recognized under Sections 1798.105, 1798.145, or 1798.146 of the Civil Code.**

**6225.10.** Certification as a program participant shall not be evidence that minor children in the program participant's custody are at risk in the participant's care.

**6225.11.** The Attorney General may adopt guidance to facilitate the administration of this chapter by state and local agencies.

**6225.12.** (a) The Attorney General shall commence accepting applications under ~~this~~ **the** program **established pursuant to this chapter** on April 1, 2027.

~~(b) (1) Beginning January 10, 2028, and no later than January 10 of each year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Legislature a report that includes the total number of applications received for the program established by this chapter.~~

~~(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795.~~

**SEC. 2.** The Legislature finds and declares that this act imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

~~Persons employed as judicial officers in California are subject to increased risk of threats or actual violence against themselves and their families and require protections.~~ **The public interest in nondisclosure of judicial home addresses clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Nondisclosure supports judicial security, judicial integrity, and public trust in the rule of law, whereas disclosure increases the documented risk of violence against judicial officers**

**SEC. 3.** The Legislature finds and declares that this act furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

~~Persons employed as judicial officers in California are subject to increased risk of threats or actual violence against themselves and their families and require protections.~~ **The public interest in nondisclosure of judicial home addresses clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Nondisclosure supports judicial security, judicial integrity, and public trust in the rule of law, whereas disclosure increases the documented risk of violence against judicial officers.**

**SEC. 4.** No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because, in that regard, this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.