



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5555

LCO No. 3142



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***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 Section 54-240 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 and section 7 of this act:

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) "Financial institution" has the same meaning as provided in
27 section 36a-2;

28 (9) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as
29 provided in section 52-571m;

30 ~~[(8)]~~ (10) "Injury or risk of injury to a child" means any act or conduct
31 that constitutes a violation of section 53-21;

32 ~~[(9)]~~ (11) "Kidnapping" means any act that constitutes a violation of
33 section 53a-92, 53a-92a, 53a-94 or 53a-94a;

34 ~~[(10)]~~ (12) "Law enforcement agency" means the office of the Attorney
35 General, the office of the Chief State's Attorney, the Division of State
36 Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
37 Protection or any municipal police department;

38 ~~[(11)]~~ (13) "Marriage records" means an application for a marriage
39 license, an issued marriage license, a license certificate or other
40 documents related thereto;

41 [(12)] ~~(14)~~ "Program address" means the post office box number and
42 fictitious street address assigned to a program participant by the
43 Secretary of the State;

44 [(13)] ~~(15)~~ "Program participant" or "participant" means any person
45 certified by the Secretary of the State to participate in the address
46 confidentiality program;

47 (16) "Real property address confidentiality program notice" means a
48 completed form, prescribed by the Secretary of the State pursuant to
49 section 7 of this act;

50 (17) "Real property record" means any record or data maintained by
51 a town clerk as part of the municipal land records or by a tax assessor
52 as part of the municipal tax records;

53 [(14)] ~~(18)~~ "Record" has the same meaning as "public records or files"
54 as provided in section 1-200;

55 (19) "Reproductive health care services has the same meaning as
56 provided in section 52-571m;

57 [(15)] ~~(20)~~ "Sexual assault" means any act that constitutes a violation
58 of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
59 January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
60 53a-73a;

61 (21) "Shield" or "shielding" means to remove a real property record
62 from public inspection to a separate secure area to which persons who
63 do not have a legitimate reason for access are denied access;

64 [(16)] ~~(22)~~ "Stalking" means any act that constitutes a violation of
65 section 53a-181c, 53a-181d or 53a-181e; and

66 [(17)] ~~(23)~~ "Trafficking in persons" means any act that constitutes a
67 violation of section 53a-192a.

68 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 54-240a of the general statutes is
69 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
70 *1, 2026*):

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

75 (1) [~~has~~] Has been a victim of (A) family violence, (B) injury or risk of
76 injury to a child, (C) kidnapping, (D) sexual assault, (E) stalking, (F)
77 trafficking in persons, or (G) child abuse or neglect, where such abuse
78 or neglect was substantiated by the Department of Children and
79 Families and was the basis for the issuance of a restraining order under
80 section 46b-15 or civil protection order under section 46b-16a; [, or]

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

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

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

88 (a) An adult person, a guardian or conservator of the person acting
89 on behalf of an adult person, or a parent or guardian acting on behalf of
90 a minor may apply to the Secretary of the State for participation in the
91 address confidentiality program and to have the Secretary of the State
92 designate a program address to serve as the address of the adult person
93 or of the minor. Each application for program participation, other than
94 the application of a person engaged in the provision, facilitation or
95 promotion of reproductive health care services or gender-affirming
96 health care services, shall be completed with the assistance of an
97 application assistant.

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

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

106 The Secretary of the State shall certify an applicant or the person on
107 whose behalf an application is made as a program participant if the
108 application is filed in the manner and on the application form prescribed
109 by the Secretary of the State and includes:

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

130 been the target of threats, harassment or acts of violence within one year
131 preceding the date of the application;

132 (2) A statement made under penalty of false statement, as provided
133 in section 53a-157b, that (A) for an applicant described in subparagraph
134 (A) or (B) of subdivision (1) of this section, the applicant fears for the
135 safety of the applicant, children living in the applicant's home, person
136 on whose behalf the application is made or children living in the home
137 of the person on whose behalf the application is made, or (B) for an
138 applicant described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this
139 section, the applicant fears for the safety of the applicant or children
140 living in the home of the applicant;

141 [(2)] (3) Documentation supporting the [statement] statements made
142 pursuant to [subdivision (1)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section;

143 [(3)] (4) A designation of the Secretary of the State as the agent of the
144 applicant or, if applicable, of the person on whose behalf the application
145 is made, for service of process and for receipt of first class mail;

146 [(4)] (5) The residential address in this state, the work and school
147 addresses in this state, if any, and the phone number or numbers, if
148 available, that are to remain confidential, but which may be used by the
149 Secretary of the State or authorized personnel to contact the applicant
150 or, if applicable, the person on whose behalf the application is made;
151 and

152 [(5)] (6) The application preparation date, the applicant's signature
153 and, if applicable, the signature of the application assistant who assisted
154 the applicant in completing the application.

155 Sec. 5. Section 54-240h of the general statutes is repealed and the
156 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

157 (a) A program participant may request, on a form prescribed by the
158 Secretary of the State, that an agency or a person use the program

159 address as the participant's residential, work or school address for all
160 purposes for which the agency or person requires or requests such
161 residential, work or school address. A program participant shall present
162 the participant's certification card to any agency official [creating a new
163 record pertaining to the participant] or person and request the use [in
164 such record] of the program address appearing on the certification card.
165 The agency official or person may make a photocopy of the certification
166 card for the records of the agency or person and thereafter shall
167 immediately return the certification card to the program participant.

168 (b) If a program participant requests that an agency or person use the
169 program address pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the agency
170 or person shall accept and use the program address as the program
171 participant's residential, work or school address, in lieu of the
172 participant's confidential address, unless the agency receives an
173 exemption from such use granted by the Secretary of the State pursuant
174 to section 54-240i. An agency or person shall not require a program
175 participant to provide a confidential address either as a substitute or in
176 addition to the program address, or as a condition of receiving a service
177 or benefit, unless the service or benefit would be impossible to provide
178 without having knowledge of the program participant's physical
179 location.

180 (c) Any agency or person that is in receipt of a written request using
181 the form prescribed by the Secretary of the State under subsection (a) of
182 this section shall not knowingly disclose the program participant's name
183 or confidential address.

184 (d) A bank, credit union or any other depository institution or
185 financial institution may require a program participant to make any
186 request under this section in writing and to use the form prescribed by
187 the Secretary of the State under subsection (a) of this section.

188 (e) A program participant who acquires an ownership interest in real
189 property while participating in the program may request the real

190 property records to be shielded in accordance with the provisions of
191 section 7 of this act.

192 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 54-240k of the general statutes is
193 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
194 *1, 2026*):

195 (d) (1) The Secretary of the State shall notify in writing the authorized
196 personnel of the appropriate agency when a participant's certification in
197 the program has been cancelled. After receipt of such notice, the agency
198 shall not be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the record
199 or address of a program participant whose certification has been
200 cancelled.

201 (2) If the marriage records of a program participant whose
202 certification has been cancelled were kept confidential pursuant to
203 section 54-240f, the Secretary of the State shall notify in writing the
204 authorized personnel of the appropriate office of the registrar of vital
205 statistics of the cancellation.

206 (3) If the participant whose certification has been cancelled was listed
207 on a voter registry list without the participant's street and house number
208 pursuant to section 54-240g, the Secretary of the State shall notify in
209 writing the authorized personnel of the appropriate office of the
210 registrar of voters of the cancellation.

211 (4) If the real property records of a program participant whose
212 certification has been cancelled were kept confidential pursuant to
213 section 7 of this act, the Secretary of the State shall notify in writing the
214 town clerk of the municipality in which the real property that is the
215 subject of such records is located of the cancellation.

216 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A program participant
217 who acquires an ownership interest in real property while participating
218 in the address confidentiality program established pursuant to section
219 54-240a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, may request the

220 shielding of real property records concerning the property in
221 accordance with the provisions of this section.

222 (b) (1) To request the shielding of real property records, a program
223 participant, or any agent of a program participant, shall submit to the
224 town clerk of the municipality where the real property is located (A) a
225 real property address confidentiality program notice, and (B) the deed
226 or other instrument to be recorded. Upon receipt of such request, such
227 town clerk shall keep the participant's real property records confidential
228 and shall not make available for inspection or copying the name and
229 address of a program participant, except if (i) the program participant
230 consents to the disclosure for a specific purpose identified in writing
231 and signed by the program participant, which includes the participant's
232 certification code as stated on the real property address confidentiality
233 program notice, (ii) requested by a law enforcement agency, to the law
234 enforcement agency, (iii) directed by a court order, to a person identified
235 in such order, or (iv) the Secretary of the State authorizes disclosure in
236 accordance with the provisions of subsection (i) of this section.

237 (2) The town clerk shall also share such notice with authorized
238 personnel of the tax assessor or any other department that would have
239 access to and disclose real property records, and such authorized
240 personnel shall also be subject to such prohibition on disclosure.

241 (3) The prohibition on disclosure shall continue until (A) the program
242 participant consents to the termination of the real property address
243 confidentiality program notice in writing and signed by the program
244 participant, (B) the real property address confidentiality program notice
245 is terminated in accordance with a court order, (C) the program
246 participant no longer holds an ownership interest in the property
247 identified in the real property address confidentiality program notice,
248 or (D) the Secretary of the State notifies the town clerk that the program
249 participant's certification has been cancelled.

250 (c) The real property address confidentiality program notice shall be

251 on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State and shall include (1)
252 the full legal name of the program participant, including middle name,
253 (2) the program participant's certification code as stated on the
254 certification card issued pursuant to section 54-240d of the general
255 statutes, (3) the program address designated by the Secretary of the State
256 pursuant to section 54-240e of the general statutes, (4) a description of
257 the property, including the physical address, and (5) the signature of the
258 program participant.

259 (d) The program participant shall submit to the Secretary of the State
260 a copy of any real property address confidentiality program notice
261 submitted under subsection (b) of this section.

262 (e) A real property address confidentiality program notice applies to
263 (1) the instrument submitted for recordation at the same time as the real
264 property address confidentiality program notice, including the proof of
265 tax payment, and (2) any other instrument concerning the property
266 identified in the real property address confidentiality program notice
267 that is subsequently presented for recordation during the period of time
268 that the program participant holds a record interest in the property and
269 is a program participant.

270 (f) A program participant shall use a separate real property address
271 confidentiality program notice for each property in which the program
272 participant acquires an ownership interest.

273 (g) A real property address confidentiality program notice is not a
274 public record, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes.

275 (h) (1) Town clerks shall establish procedures for recording deeds and
276 other instruments to comply with the provisions of this section. The
277 procedures shall, at a minimum, include provisions for (A) shielding
278 recorded instruments that contain a program participant's physical
279 address or identifying information, (B) notifying other municipal
280 authorized personnel, and (C) providing notice to the public of the
281 existence of a shielded instrument and instructions for requesting access

282 to the shielded instrument in accordance with the provisions of
283 subsection (i) of this section.

284 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a town
285 clerk from returning an original deed or any other instrument to the
286 person who submitted the instrument for recordation.

287 (3) All state and local agencies involved in real property assessments
288 and taxation shall establish procedures for maintaining records,
289 including tax, utility and zoning records, in accordance with the
290 provisions of this section.

291 (i) (1) Upon request, the Secretary of the State may authorize the
292 disclosure of real property records that have been shielded under this
293 section for the purposes of performing a bona fide title examination.
294 Any request made under this section shall include (A) the name, title,
295 address and affiliated organization, if applicable, of the individual
296 requesting the disclosure, (B) the individual's purpose for requesting the
297 disclosure, (C) the individual's relationship, if any, to the program
298 participant, (D) a legal description of the property subject to the title
299 examination, (E) a statement that any information disclosed to the
300 individual shall be treated as confidential and shall be used and
301 disclosed only for the purpose identified in the request, (F) the
302 individual's signature, and (G) any other information required by the
303 Secretary of the State to respond to the request.

304 (2) Within two business days after receiving a request under this
305 subsection, the Secretary of the State shall provide a written response
306 approving or denying the request. The Secretary of the State shall
307 approve the request only if the request meets the requirements of
308 subdivision (1) of this subsection and the Secretary of the State confirms
309 the property subject to the title examination is the property identified in
310 the real property address confidentiality program notice of a current
311 program participant. If the property belongs to an individual who is no
312 longer a program participant, (A) the Secretary of the State shall give

313 written notice to the town clerk of the municipality in which the real
314 property is located and inform the individual who made the request
315 under this subsection that such records are no longer shielded, and (B)
316 the town clerk shall cease shielding all real property records relating to
317 the property and shall notify all authorized personnel of the
318 municipality to cease shielding all real property records relating to the
319 property.

320 (j) If a program participant intends to request the shielding of real
321 property records under this section, the program participant may not
322 submit any instrument for recordation electronically.

323 Sec. 8. Subdivision (21) of subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the 2026
324 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
325 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

326 (21) The residential, work or school address of any participant in the
327 address confidentiality program established pursuant to sections 54-240
328 to 54-240o, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any real property record
329 being shielded under section 7 of this act;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-240
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-240a(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-240b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-240c
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-240h
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-240k(d)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-210(b)(21)

Statement of Purpose:

To expand the address confidentiality program to include applicants who are engaged in the provision, facilitation or promotion of reproductive health care services and gender-affirming health care services and have safety concerns, to expand such program to require

persons as well as state agencies to use a program address and to create a process for the shielding of real property records of program participants.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]