
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 123

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

By law, the address confidentiality program, administered by the Secretary of the State (SOTS), allows certain victims to receive a substitute mailing address in order to keep their residential address confidential due to safety concerns.

This bill expands the program by allowing the following individuals to participate:

1. victims of (a) 1st or 2nd degree kidnapping, (b) 1st or 2nd degree kidnapping with a firearm, (c) human trafficking, or (d) child abuse substantiated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF); and
2. children who are the subject of petitions to terminate parental rights granted by the court.

(Presumably, DCF, a temporary or permanent guardian, or adoptive parent would initiate the program application on such a child's behalf, following a process determined by SOTS under its authority to adopt regulations for this program.) Current law already allows victims of family violence; injury or risk of injury to a child; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th degree sexual assault; 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; 3rd degree sexual assault with a firearm; sexual assault in a spousal or cohabiting relationship, or 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree stalking to participate in the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

Under existing law, once an applicant to the address confidentiality program is certified by SOTS, he or she receives a substitute address. SOTS, as the participant’s legal agent, receives any mail and service of process sent to that substitute address and forwards it to the participant’s confidential address free-of-charge.

Participants may generally have (1) their street address omitted from voter registries, (2) correspondence from state agencies sent to their 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 such participants may reapply at any time (CGS § 54-240 et seq. and Conn. Agencies Regs. § 54-240-1 et seq.).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)