

**SUBJECT:** Making certain victims' addresses confidential

**COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Moody, Hunter, Canales, Gervin-Hawkins, Hefner, Lang,  
Wilson

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Marta Prada Pelaez, Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.; G. G.; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Fiorella Giordano, Bethesda Church; Kathryn Freeman, Christian Life Commission; TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Dorothy Dundas, House of Accord; Jim Grace, Houston Area Women's Center; Jesse Ozuna, City of Houston Mayor's Office; Tiana Sanford, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office; Judy Gautreaux, Mt. Pleasant Prayer Network; James Jones, San Antonio Police Department; Vincent Giardino, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office; Thomas Schlueter, Texas Aposrolic Prayer Network; Chris Kaiser, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault; Joshua Houston, Texas Impact; Mike Gomez, Texas Municipal Police Association; Aaron Setliff, the Texas Council on Family Violence; Justin Wood, Travis County District Attorney; Suzanne Vincent, Trinity Fellowship Church; Ruby Dodson, TxAPN; Trayce Bradford; Thomas Parkinson; John Seago)

Against — None

On — Kristen Huff, Texas Office of the Attorney General

**BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 56.82(a) requires the attorney general to establish an address confidentiality program to assist a victim of family violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, prohibited sexual conduct, or stalking. Through the program, the attorney general ensures the confidentiality of a participant's residential, business, or school addresses and designates a substitute post office box address for a participant to use in place of the real address.

Some individuals say that this confidentiality program should be expanded to include victims under certain protective orders and that other information on these victims also should be classified to reduce ongoing abuse or stalking.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2222 would authorize an individual to be eligible for the address confidentiality program if the applicant, or a member of the applicant's household, was protected under:

- a temporary restraining order;
- a temporary ex parte order related to family violence;
- a protective order related to sexual assault or abuse, stalking, human trafficking, or family violence; or
- a magistrate's order for emergency protection related to family violence.

An applicant also could be eligible if he or she had other documentation of family violence, sexual assault or abuse, or stalking.

The attorney general could disclose a participant's true residential, business, or school address to a requesting law enforcement agency only if it was for the purpose of conducting an investigation.

The bill also would classify an individual's residential address submitted in a voter registration application or in a tax appraisal record as confidential, if the applicant provided certain evidence that:

- the applicant or an applicable member of his or her household was a victim of family violence;
- the applicant or an applicable member of his or her household was a victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or human trafficking; or
- the applicant was a participant in the address confidentiality program.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds

record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 256 by V. Taylor, was reported favorably without amendment by the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence on April 28 and has been sent to Calendars.