

**SUBJECT:** Expanding the address confidentiality program to child abduction victims

**COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Moody, Cook, Bhojani, Bowers, Darby, Harrison, Leach, C. Morales, Schatzline  
0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: M. Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers Union; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association; John Chancellor, Texas Police Chiefs Association)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — Kristen Huff, Office of the Attorney General

**BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure art. 58.052 creates an address confidentiality program (ACP) administered by the attorney general. The program assists victims of family violence, sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons in maintaining a confidential address.

**DIGEST:** HB 1161 would add victims of child abduction to the list of eligible ACP participants. Child abduction would be defined as any conduct that constituted an offense of unlawful restraint, kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping, or the unlawful taking from custody a person younger than 18 years of age. The bill also would amend certain eligibility standards for the program, requiring an applicant to meet any rather than all of the relevant criteria.  
  
The 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, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS**  
**SAY:** By expanding the scope of the address confidentiality program, HB 1161 would extend a needed protection to survivors of child abduction. Like other victims eligible for the ACP, child abduction survivors and their families are vulnerable to continued harassment and threats by perpetrators, especially in the case of familial abductions. HB 1161 would help to mitigate these cases by allowing child abduction survivors and their families to apply for the ACP.

**CRITICS**  
**SAY:** No concerns identified.