

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 76

SESSION: 2013 Regular Session

TOPIC: Safe-at-Home Address Confidentiality Program

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Overview

This act modifies certain procedures and standards related to the Safe-at-Home address confidentiality program. The Safe-at-Home program, administered by the Office of the Secretary of State, is an identity and location protection program for individuals who may be in physical danger, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and other individuals who fear for their safety.

Section

- 1** **Definitions.** Expands the definition of persons eligible to participate in the Safe-at-Home program by allowing participation if the person fears for the safety of another person who resides in the same household.

This section also requires that individuals must reside in Minnesota to be eligible for the program, and modifies the definition of “mail” to clarify that mail from a government agency includes only that sent by a state or county government agency.

- 2** **Application.** Modifies the content of the application for participation in the Safe-at-Home program to clarify that the name of the person listed on the application must be the person’s full legal name, and to clarify the type of address that the applicant must provide for mailing purposes.

Other conforming changes are provided to reflect changes to the eligibility requirements for participation in the program as provided in section 1.

Section

- 3 Certification cancellation.** Permits the secretary of state to cancel a person's certification to participate in the program if there is a change in the person's legal name or contact information, or if the person is no longer eligible to participate.
- 4 Use of designated address.** Prohibits a person from requiring a program participant to submit an address that could be used to physically locate the participant, as a substitute or in addition to the designated address, or as a condition of receiving a service or benefit, unless the service or benefit could not be provided without knowledge of the participant's physical location.
- This section also prohibits any entity or person from knowingly disclosing a program participant's residential, school, or work address, unless the person has the same address as the participant or the participant has given signed permission for the disclosure. This requirement does not apply to records maintained by the judicial branch, which are subject to rules adopted by the Supreme Court.
- 5 Classification of data.** Specifies that an existing classification of data, contained in the chapter of statute regulating the Safe-at-Home program, applies to data collected, created, or maintained by the secretary of state.
- 6 Safe-at-Home program participant data.** Establishes several procedures related to handling of data that may be used to identify or locate a participant in the Safe-at-Home program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the terms "program participant" and "identity and location data."

Subd. 2. Notice of certification. Permits a program participant to submit a notice of certification to a government entity. The notice must contain the date the participant's certification in the Safe-at-Home program expires. The contents of the notice, and the fact that a notice has been submitted, are private data.

Subd. 3. Classification of identity and location data; sharing and dissemination. Provides that public identity and location data on a program participant are private data. Data on a participant that has submitted a notice of certification may not be shared or disseminated, except under the conditions specified in this section.

Subd. 4. Acceptance of address required. Regardless of whether a notice of certification has been submitted, requires a government entity to accept the Safe-at-Home designated address as a program participant's valid address, if that is the address presented by the participant, and provides that the government entity is subject to the requirements of section 5B.05 (as modified by section 4 of this act).

Subd. 5. Duties of secretary of state and other government entities. Specifies the obligations of the secretary of state and other government entities related to data held on Safe-at-Home participants.

Section

This section is effective July 1, 2013.

- 7 Exchanges of information.** Adds a conforming reference to a section of law related to law enforcement exchanges of data, to reflect changes made in section 6.

This section is effective July 1, 2013.