

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill 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 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.
- 5** **Release by a municipal utility.** Permits a program participant to request of a municipal utility that the participant's name be classified as private data. If such a request is made, the utility is prohibited from releasing the participant's name at an address otherwise protected by the Safe-at-Home program.