

Subject Secretary of State: Safe at Home Program

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Overview

This bill makes various changes related to the Safe at Home program (SAH), an address confidentiality program that is administered by the secretary of state and which is available to Minnesota residents who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, or stalking, or who otherwise fear for their personal safety.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Definitions.</p> <p>Adds emancipated minors to the list of possible SAH program “applicants.” Adds a definition of “guardian acting on behalf of an eligible minor,” which is related to the current “applicant” definition. Amends the definition of “program participant” to accommodate a change related to businesses created by program participants, which is in section 3 of the bill.</p>
2	<p>Application.</p> <p>For a guardian applying for SAH on behalf of an eligible minor, requires the court order establishing guardianship or custody to be submitted as part of an application.</p>
3	<p>Use of designated address.</p> <p>Allows an SAH participant to use their designated address when registering a business. Requires a bank or financial institution to honor that designated address.</p>
4	<p>Legal proceedings; protective order.</p> <p>In a court proceeding where a party seeks disclosure of an SAH participant’s protected address, requires the court to find (rather than merely consider as a factor) that the risk to the participant is outweighed by the interest in disclosure. Also, requires a court requiring disclosure of a protected address to issue an order that states all the legally required findings and to serve that order on the secretary of state, who is then provided an opportunity to intervene in the court proceeding.</p>

Section	Description
5	Criminal penalty. Creates a felony criminal penalty for a violation of the SAH chapter of statute if that violation results in bodily harm.
6	Nondiscrimination. Prohibits discrimination against people based on their status as SAH participants. Allows a civil action for injunctive relief to stop such discrimination.
7	Cooperation; state agencies. Amends the chapter of statute regarding state personnel management. Requires the head of each executive branch agency to appoint a contact person to liaise with SAH program staff regarding the program.
8	Residence address and permanent mailing address. Amends the definition of “residence address” and “permanent mailing address” within the chapter of statute regarding drivers’ licenses to provide that, for SAH participants, this means their current designated address under the program.
9	Evidence; residence in Minnesota. Amends a section within the chapter of statute regarding drivers’ licenses to allow a current, non-temporary SAH participant card to be used as evidence of a driver’s license applicant’s residence address.
10	Child abuse; domestic abuse; harassment. Amends a section of statute regarding mandated training for judges. Requires the education program to include information on the SAH program.



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