

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1889 (Ramos) – As Amended March 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes a court to issue a protective order preventing a defendant from contacting a victim if convicted of witness intimidation involving domestic violence, human trafficking, specified acts of sexual assault, or any case of inflicting injury on an intimate partner, as specified, for up to two years after a person is released from state prison or county jail if released from custody after a protective order issued at sentencing has expired.

FISCAL EFFECT:

This bill would result in unknown, potentially significant General Fund cost pressures to the courts, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and potentially local law enforcement agencies. While courts can currently issue protective orders for a fixed duration at the time of sentencing, this bill ties the duration of the order, in part, to the defendant's release date from custody. Because release dates from state prison are subject to change based on credit-earning and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) determinations, courts do not have reliable information at the time of sentencing to calculate the precise end date of the protective order.

As a result, implementation of this bill would likely require a new administrative process to track release dates and communicate that information to the courts. This could necessitate coordination among CDCR, DOJ (including impacts to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS)), and local law enforcement to ensure protective order records are updated accurately. Additionally, courts may need to calendar additional hearings to reissue or modify protective orders upon a defendant's release and ensure proper notice to the defendant, resulting in increased workload and court calendar impacts.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

Existing law authorizes courts to issue criminal protective orders to protect victims and witnesses where there is good cause to believe harm, intimidation, or dissuasion has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur. In specified postconviction cases, including domestic violence and certain sex offenses, courts may issue longer-term protective orders, and in domestic violence cases courts must consider issuance of a 15-year restraining order. The purpose of this bill is to address cases in which an existing criminal protective order may expire before the defendant is

released from state prison or county jail, thereby leaving a period following release when the victim may no longer be protected by the criminal order.

This bill authorizes a court to issue or extend a postconviction criminal protective order so that, in specified witness intimidation, domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault cases, the order may remain in effect for up to two years after the defendant's release from custody if release occurs after the original sentencing-based order has expired. In felony domestic violence cases, the bill would allow the protective order to remain in effect for the existing statutory duration or for two years after release, whichever is longer. In effect, the bill ties the duration of victim protection more directly to the defendant's release date rather than allowing protection to lapse solely because time has run from the date of sentencing.

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