

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1994 (Alvarez)

As Amended April 9, 2026

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires every law enforcement agency (LEA) investigating a criminal act and every agency prosecuting a criminal act to, at the time of initial contact with a crime victim, during follow-up investigation, or as soon thereafter, provide or make available to each victim an "Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources" card.

**Major Provisions**

- 1) Requires every LEA investigating a criminal act and every agency prosecuting a criminal act to, at the time of initial contact with a crime victim, during follow-up investigation, or as soon thereafter as deemed appropriate by investigating officers or prosecuting attorneys, inform each victim, the victim's next of kin if the victim is deceased, or the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, of the rights they may have under applicable laws relating to immigration relief.
- 2) Requires every LEA investigating a criminal act and every agency prosecuting a criminal act to, at the time of initial contact with a crime victim, during follow-up investigation, or as soon thereafter as deemed appropriate by investigating officers or prosecuting attorneys, provide or make available to each victim, the victim's next of kin if the victim is deceased, or the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, of the criminal act, without charge or cost, an "Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources" card.
- 3) Authorizes the Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources card to be designed as part of, and included with, the Marsy Rights card, as specified.
- 4) Requires, the Attorney General (AG), by June 1, 2027, to design and make available in both English and Spanish a PDF or other imaging format to every LEA investigating a criminal act and every agency prosecuting a criminal act an Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources card, which shall contain information in lay terms about immigrant victims rights and resources, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
  - a) A statement about undocumented immigrants' potential eligibility for immigration relief options such as a U-visa, T-visa, relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), or other immigration relief as a potential victim of a qualifying crime.
  - b) Notification that in order to remain eligible for a U-visa, qualifying victims must remain cooperative throughout the investigation or prosecution of the perpetrator.
  - c) A statement about how they can consult an immigration attorney to help determine their eligibility for immigration relief.
  - d) A list of local organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review as part of the Recognition and Accreditation program, along with the organization's contact information, as specified.

- e) Notification that the list of organizations described above offers free or low-cost services.
  - f) A statement about undocumented immigrants' rights under the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in the event of an encounter with immigration agents, including, but not limited to, the right to deny entry to their homes unless presented with a signed judicial warrant naming the individual or a person living at the same household, and the right to deny a search of their belongings unless presented with a signed judicial warrant.
  - g) A statement about undocumented immigrants' rights under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, including, but not limited to, the right to remain silent and the right to refuse to sign any documents in the event of an encounter with immigration agents.
  - h) A statement about undocumented immigrants' rights to speak to an attorney.
- 5) Removes the requirement that the AG provide information about federal immigration relief available to certain victims of crime from a provision of existing law, which is contingent on funding, which requires the AG to design and make available a "Victim Protections and Resources" card to specified LEAs that contains information about victim rights and resources.

## COMMENTS

### According to the Author

"Victims of crime should never be afraid to contact law enforcement. This legislation encourages undocumented victims to report crimes and share information that supports law enforcement investigations, and ensures they receive guidance about the protections available through the U visa, T visa, or under VAWA."

### Arguments in Support

According to the *County of San Diego, District 1*, AB 1994 "seeks to require local law enforcement to provide an Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources card to crime victims, in addition to the Marsy Rights card. This would ensure that all victims receive information about relief options, such as the U Nonimmigrant Status (U Visa), T Nonimmigrant Status (T Visa), or under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a list of local accredited immigration legal service providers, and Know Your Rights Information."

"In 1982, California passed Proposition 8, known as the "Victims' Bill of Rights," to establish the right of victims to obtain restitution from any person who caused them to suffer a loss. It centered on the victims and ensured that their voices were heard as they made their path to recovery. Then, in 2008, California approved Proposition 9, the "Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law." This law requires local law enforcement to provide victims with a card that outlines information regarding their rights and helpful resources. Marsy's Law established a foundation for protections that are available to victims but currently does not include information about relief options. Many undocumented immigrant victims are unaware of the U Visa, T Visa, VAWA, and the protections that they provide."

"Undocumented immigrants are often vulnerable to serious crimes that undermine public safety. The fear of not knowing who to trust leaves them unprotected and susceptible to crime. Perpetrators take advantage of undocumented immigrants and their instability to prevent them from reporting crimes to law enforcement. According to the Human Rights Watch, abusers threaten undocumented victims with deportation, taking children away, and murder, to silence them. Informing crime victims about immigration relief options and connecting them to legal service providers would help rebuild the trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve."

"AB 1994 would require local law enforcement to provide an Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources card to all crime victims. They would receive this card in addition to the Marsy Rights card at the time of initial contact, during a follow-up investigation, or within 14 days of a crime being reported. California would strengthen its commitment to protect all crime victims and support efforts to deter future criminal activity by informing victims of the U Visa, T Visa, and VAWA."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None submitted.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

- 1) Potentially reimbursable state-mandated local program costs (General Fund), likely minor and ongoing, for local law enforcement agencies and county prosecutors to print, distribute, and make available the Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources card. Because the Attorney General will provide the card in PDF or imaging format rather than as printed stock, production costs fall on distributing agencies. Actual reimbursement contingent on Commission on State Mandates determination.
- 2) Minor ongoing costs to the Department of Justice (DOJ) (General Fund) to design the card in English and Spanish and make it available to agencies, and to maintain the card content, including keeping current the required list of local organizations. The DOJ reports that its existing Victims' Services Unit (VSU) would need to perform regular upkeep as immigration resources may change due to staffing and change of services. The DOJ notes that although the bill only mandates that the cards be in English and Spanish, the existing Marsy's card is currently translated into 23 languages, so DOJ would need to update the card and also update the 23 translations, creating an additional one-time cost on VSU. The DOJ estimates costs of \$150,000 or less on an ongoing basis. The DOJ also notes that implementation of this bill will be dependent upon the appropriation of funds; the DOJ will be unable to absorb the costs to comply with or implement the requirements of the bill within existing budgeted resources.
- 3) Likely costs to state agencies investigating or prosecuting criminal acts of an unknown, but likely minor, amount (General Fund, special fund) — including the Department of Justice, CHP, and other state-level investigative and prosecutorial entities — to distribute the card.

## VOTES

**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-0-0**

**YES:** Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1**

**YES:** Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Muratsuchi

## UPDATED

VERSION: April 9, 2026

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