

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1994 (Alvarez)

As Amended May 19, 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 *January 1, 2028*, to design and make available in English, Spanish, *and any other language in which the "Marsy Rights" card is currently translated*, 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 Nonimmigrant Status (U-visa), T Nonimmigrant Status (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) *The internet website address of the list of immigration legal services providers maintained by the State Department of Social Services.*

- 5) Removes the requirement that the AG include information about federal immigration relief available to certain victims of crime on the "Victim Protections and Resources" card the AG makes available to specified LEAs.

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

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