
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1994 (Alvarez) - Defending Immigrant Victims Act

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1994, the Defending Immigrant Victims Act, would require law enforcement agencies to provide a resources card containing information about federal immigration relief to crime victims. Because this bill would result in additional duties on local law enforcement and prosecuting agencies in informing victims, this bill would impose a state mandated local program.

Fiscal Impact: Minor costs to the Department of Justice to design the Immigrant Victims' Rights and Resources card.

Minor to moderate costs to state law enforcement agencies to produce and distribute the Immigrant Victims' Rights and Resources card, as specified.

Potentially significant cost to local law enforcement agencies to produce and distribute Immigrant Victims' Rights and Resources cards. Actual reimbursement would be determined by the Commission on State Mandates claims process (General Fund).

There are 90,000 peace officers in California.

Background: Existing law, as added by Proposition 9, the Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law (Marsy's Law) requires a law enforcement agency investigating a criminal act and an agency prosecuting a criminal act to, at the time of initial contact with a crime victim, during followup investigation, or as soon thereafter as deemed appropriate, provide or make available to the victim a "Marsy's Rights" card, also referred to as the "Victim Protection and Resources" card, that contains the constitutional rights of crime victims without charge or cost to the victim.

Proposition 9 provides that the Legislature may amend its provisions to expand the scope of its application, to recognize additional rights of victims of crime, or to further the rights of victims of crime by a statute passed by a majority vote of the membership of each house.

Proposed Law: This bill, the Defending Immigrant Victims Act, would mirror the Marsy Law by requiring a law enforcement agency and a prosecuting agency to provide a victim an "Immigrant Victims' Rights and Resources" card that would provide specified information pertaining to the victim's rights, including a statement explaining how to consult an immigration attorney to help determine eligibility for immigration relief.

The bill would require the Attorney General, by January 1, 2028, to design the card and make it available in English, Spanish, and any other language in which the "Marsy Rights" card is currently translated to law enforcement agencies and agencies

prosecuting crimes. The AG would make the card available in a PDF or other imaging format only, with the cost to produce and distribute the card to be borne by law enforcement agencies.

Staff Comments: Law enforcement costs associated with the Marsy's Law card are not readily available as costs to local agencies that may be imposed by a proposition approved by the voters are not reimbursable and thus, are not tracked the way a reimbursable mandate might be tracked.

Proposed Author Amendments: The author has suspense file amendments which would (1) specify January 1, 2028 as the date when law enforcement agencies shall begin informing each victim, next of kin, parent or guardian of a minor of the rights they may have under applicable laws relating to immigration relief and (2) add notification of a T visa eligibility to the "Marsy Rights" card.