

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Damon Connolly, Chair

AB 2086 (Ellis) – As Introduced February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Pest control licenses: personal information: confidentiality

SUMMARY: Exempts specified personal information of pesticide applicants, licensees, and certificate holders from public disclosure under the California Public Records Act (PRA).

Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Provides that the personal information of pesticide applicants, licensees, and certificate holders, collected by the Department of Pesticide Registration (DPR) shall not be considered a public record and is exempt from disclosure under the PRA, unless it is required to be disclosed pursuant to a court order by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 2) Authorizes DPR to disclose an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder's address of record. Authorizes DPR to allow an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder to provide a post office box number or other alternate address, instead of a home address, as the address of record.
- 3) Authorizes DPR to additionally require an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder who has provided a post office box number or other alternative mailing address as the address of record to provide a physical business or residential address only for DPR's internal administrative use and not for disclosure as the applicant, licensee, or certificate holder's address of record on DPR's internet website.
- 4) Defines "personal information" as information, other than the name and mailing address, that identifies an individual, including an individual's photograph, social security number, address, telephone number, and medical or disability information, but does not include other information related to licensing such as incidents, rules or safety violations, misconduct, commendations, and license status.
- 5) Adds pest control licenses and confidentiality of personal information, to the list of records that may be exempt from disclosure under the PRA.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), for federal regulation of pesticide distribution, sale, and use. Requires that all pesticides distributed or sold in the United States be registered (licensed) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Requires, before U.S. EPA registers a pesticide under FIFRA, the applicant to show, among other things, that using the pesticide according to specifications will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment. (7 United States Code § 136, et seq.)
- 2) Authorizes the state's pesticide regulatory program and mandates DPR to, among other things, provide for the proper, safe, and efficient use of pesticides essential for the production of food and fiber, for the protection of public health and safety, for the protection of the environment from environmentally harmful pesticides, and to assure agricultural and pest

control workers safe working conditions where pesticides are present by prohibiting, regulating, or otherwise ensuring proper stewardship of those pesticides. (Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) § 11401, et seq.)

- 3) Regulates the use of pesticides and authorizes the director of DPR to adopt regulations to govern the registration, sale, transportation, or use of pesticides, as prescribed. (FAC §11501, et. seq.)
- 4) Provides that it is unlawful for any person to act in a supervisory capacity or position for a pest control business, as specified, unless the person has a qualified applicator license. (FAC § 12201.1)
- 5) Prohibits a person from acting, or offering to act, as an agricultural pest control adviser without first having secured an agricultural pest control adviser license from the director of DPR. (FAC § 12001).
- 6) Requires each registered structural pest control company to make all existing records pertaining to pesticide and device use available to the director of DPR, the Structural Pest Control Board, or county agricultural commissioner upon demand at the headquarters of the business during normal business hours. Provides that this information and documents gathered by the director, the Structural Pest Control Board, or the commissioner are protected from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code) and shall remain confidential while in the director's, the board's, or the commissioner's possession. (FAC § 15205).
- 7) Creates the PRA, governing the accessibility of government records. (Government Code (GC) § 7920.000)
- 8) Declares that access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state. (GC § 7921.000)
- 9) Exempts certain records, or portions therefore, from public disclosure for structural pest control licensee records relating to pesticide use. (GC § 7930.200)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill: According to the author, "California has the most educated and credentialed agricultural workforce in the country. This has enabled California to simultaneously be leaders in environmental stewardship and agricultural production. Credentialed Professionals in agriculture deserve the same privacy protections as their licensed counterparts in other industries. Specifically, AB 2086 will ensure that the home addresses of these employees and small business owners are not made available to the public."

DPR's mission: Since most pesticides are, by design, inherently toxic to their target pest – and excess amounts of any substance may be harmful – pesticide use must be strictly controlled. Amendments to FIFRA have delegated responsibility and authority to states for training, registration, and enforcement through cooperative agreements, with U.S. EPA maintaining

oversight responsibility over state programs. In California, these duties lie with DPR, which is housed within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and has the express mission "to protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides."

DPR's licensing programs: Among DPR's legislative mandates is to "ensure that people selling, possessing, storing, handling, applying and recommending the use of pesticides are knowledgeable in their safe use." Licensing of pesticide professionals is designed to ensure they have the knowledge and ability to use pesticides safely and effectively. Many individuals and businesses that sell, consult on or professionally apply pesticides are required to get a license or certificate from DPR's Licensing and Certification Program. In most cases, this licensing process includes a closed-book examination that includes questions on pesticide laws and regulations as well as questions on specific information that is applicable to each license or certificate. DPR's Licensing and Certification Program issues five types of licenses and certificates to individuals:

- 1) *Agricultural pest control adviser (PCA) license.* A PCA license is required to offer a recommendation on any agricultural use of pesticides, to sell services as an authority on any agricultural pesticide use, or to solicit services or sales for any agricultural pesticide use.
- 2) *Pest control aircraft pilot certificate.* A pest control aircraft pilot certificate is required to operate an aircraft for pest control.
- 3) *Pest control dealer designated agent license.* A pest control dealer designated agent license is required to supervise the operations of a licensed pest control dealer. Each licensed pest control dealer must have designated agents at the principal office and each branch location.
- 4) *Qualified applicator certificate (QAC).* A QAC is required for government employees and some other categories of workers who apply or supervise the application of restricted pesticides for any purpose or on any property other than that provided by the definition of private applicator; or by maintenance gardeners and some other employees who perform pest control incidental to their job or business (that is, whose primary work is not pest control).
- 5) *Qualified applicator license (QAL).* A QAL is required to apply or supervise the application of restricted pesticides for any purpose or on any property other than that provided by a private applicator, or by anyone who supervises pesticide applications made by a licensed pest control business.
- 6) *Private applicator certificate.* A private applicator certificate is required for people who use or supervise the use of restricted pesticides on property owned or leased by the applicator or the applicator's employer.

This bill: AB 2086 will prohibit from disclosure, under the PRA, certain personal information (home address, social security numbers, etc.) of pesticide applicants, licensees, and certificate holders. Additionally, many of these applicators, license and certificate holders are small business and may use their home address for business purposes. This bill requires these entities to disclose their address (including home address if it's a business address) to DPR but allows DPR to not disclose the home address and other personal information to the public. Existing law (GC § 7930.200) exempts certain records, from disclosure under the PRA for structural pest control licensees. Additionally, under the PRA, various other professional licenses have similar

protections from disclosing personal information under the PRA. This bill is consistent with other laws that shield certain personal information from disclosure under the PRA.

Arguments in support: According to the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA) and California Agricultural Aircraft Association (CAAA),

"We write to express our support for AB 2086 (Ellis), which would protect the privacy of applicants, licensees and certificate holders with the Department of Pesticide Regulation. In California, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) licenses and certifies the industry professionals who recommend, transport and apply pesticides. These credentials ensure that pesticides are applied only by those with technical knowledge and expertise to protect public health, the environment, and agricultural industry. They include Pest Control Advisors (PCAs), Qualified Applicators (QALs), and Certified Applicators (CAs).

Many of the PCAs and applicators licensed by DPR are small businesses and single-person operations that are required, as a condition of approval, to identify their mailing address during licensing and/or certification. Because of the nature of these small businesses, mailing addresses are often home addresses for these operators, making what would otherwise be confidential information publicly accessible.

AB 2086 clarifies that licenses and certificates issued by DPR are given the same privacy protections as those issued by DCA, while still maintaining transparency for the public."

Arguments in opposition: None on file.

Double-referral: Should this bill pass the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, it will be referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Related legislation:

AB 1480 (Quirk, Chapter 152, Statutes of 2017). Authorizes the director of DPR to levy a civil penalty against a person who commits fraudulent activity related to the pesticide applicator licensing process.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Agricultural Aircraft Association (Sponsor)
California Association of Pest Control Advisers (Sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

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