

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

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

Policy Committee:	Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials	Vote:	7 - 0
	Judiciary		12 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill exempts certain 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, as defined, 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, and requires DPR to allow these entities 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 on DPR's website.
- 4) Adds pest control licenses and confidentiality of personal information to the list of records that may be exempt from disclosure under the PRA.

FISCAL EFFECT:

DPR anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** 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.

- 2) **Background.** Current law requires DPR to ensure that people selling, possessing, storing, handling, applying, and recommending the use of pesticides are knowledgeable in the safe use of pesticides. Current law also requires certain individuals and businesses that sell, consult on, or professionally apply pesticides to obtain 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 applicable to each license or certificate. DPR's Licensing and Certification Program issues five types of licenses and certificates to individuals: Pest Control Advisors (PCAs), Apprentice Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Certificates (APCs), Journeyman Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Certificate (JPCs), Qualified Applicators (QALs), and Certified Applicators (CAs).

Existing law exempts certain records related to various professional licenses, including structural pest control licenses, from disclosure under the PRA. In line with these laws, this bill protects the privacy of applicants, licensees, and certificate holders who submit certain information to DPR.

The California Association of Pest Control Advisers and California Agricultural Aircraft Association, the sponsors of this bill, write:

Analogous licenses issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), including DPR's non-agricultural equivalents, like pest control operators, are privy to confidentiality. However, because PCAs, APCs, JPCs, QALs and QACs are issued by DPR and not DCA, they are not eligible for such protections and do not have the option to participate in a confidential address program. 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.

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