

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2086 (Ellis and Jeff Gonzalez)

As Amended August 19, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

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

Senate Amendments

Clarify that the exemption from disclosure under the PRA applies to individual applicants, licensees, and certificate holders.

COMMENTS

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 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act have delegated responsibility and authority to states for training, registration, and enforcement through cooperative agreements, with the United State Environmental Protection Agency maintaining oversight responsibility over state programs. In California, these duties lie with the Department of Pesticide Regulation (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 individual pesticide applicants, licensees, and certificate holders. Additionally, many of these applicants, licensees 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 (Government Code Section 7930.200) exempts certain records, from disclosure under the PRA for structural pest control licensees. This bill does not prohibit DPR from using personal information for internal administrative uses. 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.

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."

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.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill has minor, if any costs, and therefore meets the criteria of Senate Rule 28.8.

VOTES:

ASM ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS: 7-0-0

YES: Connolly, Ellis, Bauer-Kahan, Castillo, Lee, McKinnor, Papan

ASM JUDICIARY: 12-0-0

YES: Kalra, Macedo, Lee, Bryan, Connolly, Dixon, Harabedian, Pacheco, Papan, Sanchez, Stefani, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Pellerin

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-6

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Addis, Hadwick, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Wicks

UPDATED

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