

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2261 (Dixon) – As Amended April 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes a court, upon a defendant's conviction of specified offenses, to consider issuing a post-conviction protective order restraining the defendant from contact with any person who is a member of the victim's family or household, in addition to the victim of the crime.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown but likely moderate amount to the courts, as the bill may add additional hearing time onto existing hearings if anyone objects to the inclusion of various family members to the protective order. Judicial Council notes potential costs due to ambiguity with the undefined terms "family" and "household." Over 360,000 criminal protective orders were issued in the state between 2020 to 2023. It generally costs approximately \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately \$117.3 million in 2025-26

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

This measure restores and clarifies judicial discretion by authorizing courts to issue criminal protective orders not only for the victim of the offense of conviction, but also for a victim's family members; members of the victim's household; and other individuals where competent evidence demonstrates that they were victims of qualifying offenses committed by the defendant. In doing so, and by clearly defining who may be protected and requiring competent evidence, AB 2261 ensures due process while allowing courts to respond appropriately to demonstrated risk.

2) **Background.** Penal Code Section 136.2 authorizes a court, in specified criminal cases, to issue protective orders against a defendant. Subdivision (i)(1) authorizes a court, at the time

of sentencing in cases involving domestic violence, human trafficking, rape, statutory rape, pimping, pandering, gang activity, or offenses requiring sex offender registration, to consider issuing an order, valid for up to 10 years, restraining the defendant from contact with a victim of the crime. According to the Public Safety Committee's analysis, two recent appellate decisions held that the post-conviction protective order authority in Section 136.2 does not extend to individuals who are not the named victim of the offense of conviction, including family members harmed by the defendant's conduct. This bill expands the court's authority under subdivision (i)(1) to consider issuing an order covering members of the victim's family or household.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081