
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2261 (Dixon) - Protective orders

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2261 would authorize 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 Impact: Likely moderate workload cost pressures 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. Over 360,000 criminal protective orders were issued in the state between 2020 to 2023. It generally costs approximately \$1,200 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. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated \$70 million to backfill revenue reductions. (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund)

Background: Existing law authorizes the trial court in a criminal case to issue protective orders when there is a good cause belief that harm to, or intimidation or dissuasion of, a victim or witness has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur.

Existing law provides that a person violating a protective order may be punished for any substantive offense described in provisions of law related to intimidation of witnesses or victims, or for contempt of court.

Existing law requires the court, at the time of sentencing, to consider issuing an order restraining the defendant from any contact with a victim of the crime when the defendant has been convicted of a crime involving domestic violence, human trafficking, a gang-related offense, or a crime that requires the defendant to register as a sex offender; existing law provides that the order may be valid for up to 10 years, as determined by the court.

Proposed Law: This bill authorizes the court, when a defendant has been convicted of specified crimes, including domestic violence, human trafficking, a crime in furtherance of a criminal street gang, or a registerable sex offense, to consider issuing an order restraining the defendant from contact with any person who is a member of the victim's family or household.