
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2534 (Kalra) - Domestic Violence Prevention Act: forced marriage

Version: June 11, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzosa

Bill Summary: AB 2534 adds forced marriage to the list of abusive conduct constituting domestic violence under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA).

Fiscal Impact: Minor to modest costs to the Judicial Council to modify and adopt new forms to incorporate forced marriage into the DVRO process.

Minor to modest costs to trial courts for additional DVRO filings and hearings. Many potential petitioners may already qualify for a DVRO under existing law, so it is unclear how many filings would be entirely new. DVRO hearings operate on tight statutory timeframes, and additional filings may result in some delays for other civil cases. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated \$70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Background: The DVPA enables a party to seek a restraining order or a protective order to enjoin specific acts of abuse, exclude a person from a dwelling, or enjoin other specified behavior. The DVPA allows a victim of domestic violence to obtain a short-term temporary restraining order (TRO) and a longer-term protective order after a noticed hearing (DVPO). These orders are generally sought in a single application that seeks the immediate issuance of a TRO and a hearing on the application for the protective order.

Proposed Law: Domestic violence is abuse perpetrated against any of the following persons:

- a) A spouse or former spouse.
- b) A cohabitant or former cohabitant.
- c) A person with whom the respondent is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship.
- d) A person with whom the respondent has had a child, where the presumption applies that the male parent is the father of the child of the female parent.
- e) A child of a party or a child who is the subject of an action, where the presumption applies that the male parent is the father of the child to be protected.
- f) Any other person related by consanguinity or affinity within the second degree.

This bill would add a party subjected to a forced marriage or an attempted forced marriage.