

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 883 (Lowenthal) – As Amended January 7, 2026

Policy Committee: Privacy and Consumer Protection Vote: 14 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Privacy Protection Agency (CPPA) to upload to the existing data broker deletion system (DROP) lists of elected officials and judges and their personal information, as provided by the Secretary of State and Judicial Council, which data brokers are then required to delete within five days.

Specifically, this bill:

1) Requires:

- a) The Secretary of State to provide CPPA a list of all state and local officials that includes the officials' personal information, which must be updated after each subsequent election.
- b) The Judicial Council to provide CPPA a list of all California judges and their profile data, updated after any election or appointment of a new judge.
- c) CPPA to offer each elected official the opportunity to opt out of being on the delete list; the Judicial Council to offer the same opt out to judges.
- d) CPPA to upload the lists to the existing data broker deletion system.
- e) A data broker receiving a delete notification to execute deletion within five days.

2) Exempts the lists from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

3) Authorizes public enforcement and a private right of action to elected officials and judges for damages, including punitive damages and reasonable attorney's fees.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Potential significant costs (Data Brokers Registration Fund, special fund) to receive and facilitate elected official and judicial uploads, facilitate opt-outs, manage configuration changes, investigate potential violations and bring enforcement actions.

The CPPA anticipates costs of \$2.1 million in budget year and \$1.1 million ongoing to fund 4.5 permanent positions and two contracts, including the cost to adapt the DROP system and for ongoing operational support tools for data brokers and end users. The DROP program is funded through annually assessed data broker registration fees. CPPA indicates

that a substantial fee increase would be required to implement the new requirements. CPPA reports that the balance of the Data Brokers Registration Fund was approximately \$1 million in December 2025, with an anticipated \$2.6 million balance at the end of this fiscal year. The DROP system was launched in January 2026, with over 100,000 requests within the first two weeks of its launch.

- 2) One-time \$100,000 General Fund costs to the Secretary of State's office to establish an inter-agency agreement with the CPPA, design interface specifications, and develop a process for the secure transfer of personal identifying information data to the CPPA.
- 3) The Judicial Council reports minor and absorbable costs associated with collecting and providing information on judges to the CPPA, as required by this bill.
- 4) Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown amount to the courts to adjudicate actions brought by the AG, public prosecutors and private litigants. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The Governor's January budget proposal for fiscal year 2026-27 provides \$70 million ongoing General Fund to the Trial Court Trust Fund for court operations.

COMMENTS:

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

California is on the cutting edge when designing laws to protect the privacy of individuals in the State. Over the last 5 years there have been documented examples of harassment, threats and even violence against elected officials in California and beyond. It is imperative that we continue to update our laws to ensure that elected and appointed officials' personal information is protected in a manner that protects the important principles of open government. AB 883 makes various updates to the existing California Privacy Protection Agency to strengthen the ability for elected and appointed officials to protect their most personal information when they are faced with a credible threat. Providing these tools to elected and appointed officials will help them reduce the exposure of sensitive information about themselves and their families, ensuring their safety when it is most critical.

- 2) **Background.** Under existing law, the Delete Act requires the CPPA to create and operate a centralized deletion mechanism that allows a consumer to submit a single request directing all registered data brokers to delete the consumer's personal information. That system became operational on January 1, 2026, with the CPPA responsible for transmitting deletion requests to all registered data brokers. Data brokers are required to comply with those requests beginning August 1, 2026, and must delete the covered personal information within 45 days of receipt. Existing law further requires data brokers to re-check every 45 days to ensure the consumer's personal information has not been re-collected. California defines "data brokers" as businesses that knowingly collect and sell personal information of consumers with whom they have no direct relationship.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 302 (Bauer-Kahan) is substantially similar to this bill, but unlike this bill, AB 302 is silent on what entity has the responsibility of creating the list of elected officials. AB 302 is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- 4) **Prior Legislation.** SB 362 (Becker), Chapter 709, Statutes of 2023, transferred authority over the data broker registry from the Attorney General to the CPPA and required CPPA to develop a mechanism that makes it easier for a consumer to request deletion of the consumer's personal information maintained by data brokers.

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