

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. SB 5772

Strengthening Confidentiality of  
domestic violence.

Brief title

Hearing Date 3/31/99

Senator Gardner, Sheldon and Rasmussen

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

**BACKGROUND:**

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is designed to help persons attempt to escape from actual or threatened domestic violence or sexual assault. The program establishes addresses to prevent the abuser from finding them by using a substituted address through the Secretary of State's office.

The ACP protects people's records from public disclosure as long as they are participants in the program. However, records may be disclosed if requested by law enforcement under court order when a person's certification in the program is canceled and they participate in a specific program. Participants may only confirm information supplied by the requestor.

Cancellation from the program results from a participant changing their name or changing their address without notification to the Secretary of State. Mail forwarded by the Secretary of State is returned undelivered and a program application using false information.

**SUMMARY:**

Records of program participants' certifications are canceled and no longer subject to public disclosure when they leave the program.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.