**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**R11, S126**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Johnson

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3736

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Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

Introduced in the House on March 20, 2025

Last Amended on March 18, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Governor's Action: April 28, 2025, Signed

Summary: Law Enforcement Personal Privacy Protection and Judicial Personal Privacy Protection

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/11/2024 Senate Prefiled

12/11/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 82](h:\sj\20250114.docx))

1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 82](h:\sj\20250114.docx))

2/21/2025 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Adams (ch), Kimbrell,
Devine, Blackmon, Kennedy, Leber, Walker

3/12/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](h:\sj\20250312.docx))

3/17/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

3/18/2025 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 9](h:\sj\20250318.docx))

3/18/2025 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 9](h:\sj\20250318.docx))

3/18/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 ([Senate Journal‑page 9](h:\sj\20250318.docx))

3/19/2025 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 7](h:\sj\20250319.docx))

3/19/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

3/20/2025 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 18](h:\hj\20250320.docx))

3/20/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 18](h:\hj\20250320.docx))

4/2/2025 House Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 7](h:\hj\20250402.docx))

4/8/2025 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 4-9-25 ([House Journal‑page 38](h:\hj\20250408.docx))

4/9/2025 House Debate adjourned until Thur., 4-10-25 ([House Journal‑page 24](h:\hj\20250409.docx))

4/9/2025 House Reconsidered ([House Journal‑page 81](h:\hj\20250409.docx))

4/9/2025 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 82](h:\hj\20250409.docx))

4/9/2025 House Roll call Yeas-111 Nays-0 ([House Journal‑page 82](h:\hj\20250409.docx))

4/10/2025 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 12](h:\hj\20250410.docx))

4/24/2025 Ratified R 11

4/28/2025 Signed By Governor

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=126&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20241211.docx)

[03/12/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20250312.docx)

[03/13/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20250313.docx)

[03/17/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20250317.docx)

[03/18/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20250318.docx)

[03/19/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20250319.docx)

[04/02/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/126_20250402.docx)

**NOTE: THIS IS A TEMPORARY VERSION. THIS DOCUMENT WILL REMAIN IN THIS VERSION UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

(R11, S126)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 30‑2‑500, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITON OF “PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION” AND TO DEFINE “DISCLOSED RECORDS”; BY AMENDING SECTION 30‑2‑510, RELATING TO THE MEANS FOR ACTIVE AND FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO MAKE THEIR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEANS FOR MAKING SUCH INFORMATION IN DISCLOSED RECORDS RESTRICTED FROM PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INTERNET WEBSITES OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UPON REQUEST AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR HOME ADDRESSES OR TAX MAP NUMBERS THAT CANNOT BE RESTRICTED FROM A DISCLOSED RECORD WITHIN AN INDEX OR FROM BEING DISPLAYED ON AN IMAGE OF AN OFFICIAL RECORD, TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE OFFICIAL RECORD HELD OR MAINTAINED BY THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, AND TO ALLOW DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY ADDING SECTION 30‑2‑515 SO AS TO PROVIDE ACTIVE AND FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MAY SEEK CERTAIN JUDICIAL RELIEF FOR NONCOMPLIANCE AND TO PREVENT LIABILITY FROM ACCRUING TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS FOR CLAIMS OR DAMAGES THAT ARISE FROM PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC RECORD; BY AMENDING SECTION 30‑2‑700, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS IN THE JUDICIAL PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT, SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE DEFINITION OF “PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION” AND TO DEFINE “DISCLOSED RECORDS”; BY AMENDING SECTION 30‑2‑710, RELATING TO THE MEANS FOR ACTIVE AND FORMER JUDGES TO MAKE THEIR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, SO AS TO PROVIDE MEANS TO RESTRICT SUCH INFORMATION IN DISCLOSED RECORDS RESTRICTED FROM PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INTERNET WEBSITES OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UPON REQUEST AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR HOME ADDRESSES OR TAX MAP NUMBERS THAT CANNOT BE RESTRICTED FROM A DISCLOSED RECORD WITHIN AN INDEX OR FROM BEING DISPLAYED ON AN IMAGE OF AN OFFICIAL RECORD, TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE OFFICIAL RECORD HELD OR MAINTAINED BY THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, AND TO ALLOW DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY ADDING SECTION 30‑2‑715 SO AS TO PROVIDE ACTIVE AND FORMER JUDGES MAY SEEK CERTAIN JUDICIAL RELIEF FOR NONCOMPLIANCE AND TO PREVENT LIABILITY FROM ACCRUING TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS FOR CLAIMS OR DAMAGES THAT ARISE FROM PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC RECORD; TO DELAY THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ACT 56 OF 2023, WHICH ENACTED THE “LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT” AND THE “JUDICIAL PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT,” FROM JULY 1, 2025, UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2026; AND TO DIRECT THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY TO COLLABORATE AND CREATE THE DESIGNATED FORM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND JUDGES to USe to REQUEST STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES REGSTRICT PUBLIC ACCESS TO PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION IN DISCLOSED RECORDS, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE FORM, AND TO PROVIDE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MAY PROVIDE SUPPLMENTAL FORMS TO IDENTIFY INFORMATION NEEDED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ADDRESS REQUESTS FROM ELIGIBLE REQUESTING PARTIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Law Enforcement Personal Privacy Protection Act, definitions, restrictions, judicial relief, liability protection

SECTION 1. Section 30‑2‑500 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 30‑2‑500. For the purposes of this article:

(1) “Personal contact information” means the home address, personal cellular telephone number, or property tax map number, if applicable, of the eligible requesting party.

(2) “Eligible requesting party” means an active or former law enforcement officer who has filed a formal request under the provisions of this article.

(3) “Law enforcement officer” means an active or former federal, state, or local certified law enforcement officer or corrections officer.

(4) “Disclosed records” means records accessible by a database or an image of an official record, that are placed on a publicly available internet website maintained by or operated on behalf of a state or local government agency. Disclosed records for the purpose of this article do not include records available for purchase or through an account, by registration or subscription, from a state or local government agency.

SECTION 30‑2‑510 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 30‑2‑510. (A) An eligible requesting party’s personal contact information in a disclosed record shall be restricted on a publicly available internet website maintained by or operated on behalf of the state or local government agency if the law enforcement officer:

(1) notifies the individual state or local government agency of the law enforcement officer's choice to restrict public access to personal contact information in disclosed records by submission of the designated form and any supplemental information requested by the state or local government agency; and

(2) provides a notarized affidavit affirming current employment or previous employment as a law enforcement officer. The affidavit must include contact information for the employer.

(B) A choice made under this article remains valid with the following exceptions:

(1) the law enforcement officer rescinds the request in writing and provides notice to the state or local government agency;

(2) the state or local government agencies disclose personal contact information related to violations of law or regulation as permitted by law;

(3) the law enforcement officer requests release of the law enforcement officer’s personal contact information from a state or local government agency for a specific purpose and for a limited time;

(4) the personal contact information is included in a collision report or uniform traffic ticket maintained and provided by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles as permitted by law;

(5) the personal contact information is included on a business filing or Uniform Commercial Code filing recorded with the South Carolina Secretary of State; or

(6) the eligible requesting party’s request to restrict information does not apply to a subsequent home address. The eligible requesting party is responsible for notifying through the designated form each state or local government agency of a subsequent home address of the eligible requesting party, and any documents filed after the original request to restrict personal contact information including, but not limited to, changes to the mortgage on a property, or any change in personal contact information.

(C) Personal contact information protected under the provisions of this article may be disclosed under subpoena, by order of the court, upon written consent of the eligible law enforcement officer, or to a government agency.

(D)(1) Personal contact information restricted from disclosed records under this section must remain within the official records held or maintained by a state or local government agency, but may not be included in an index or displayed on an image of an official record on a publicly available internet website maintained or operated on behalf of a state or local government agency.

(2) In the event that a home address or tax map number cannot be restricted from a disclosed record within an index or from being displayed on an image of an official record on a publicly available internet website maintained or operated on behalf of a state or local government agency, then the image of the official record shall not be displayed and the state or local government agency must restrict the home address or tax map number portion from the display within the index, regardless of the location within the index.

(E) Any personal contact information must be restricted, if requested by an eligible requesting party, from any disclosed record, including the designated form used to notify the state or local government agency and supplemental information requested by the state or local government agency, otherwise eligible to be released under any other provision of law. The provisions of this article must not be construed to prevent the disclosure of any other otherwise public information allowed by law.

(F) A governmental agency that restricts or withholds information under this article shall provide to a requestor a description of the restricted or withheld information and a citation to this article.

(G) Personal contact information restricted pursuant to this article may be disclosed to:

(1) a title insurer or its affiliate;

(2) a title insurance agent or agency;

(3) a personal representative of a deceased eligible requesting party;

(4) an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of South Carolina and in good standing with the South Carolina Bar or a person appointed in writing by said attorney to receive the restricted information on his behalf; or

(5) a professional engineer or professional surveyor, as defined under Section 40‑22‑20, or a person appointed in writing by said professional engineer or professional surveyor to receive the restricted information on his behalf.

(H) The restricted status of a home address contained in the official records within a county register of deeds is maintained only during the period when an eligible requesting party resides at the dwelling location. Upon the conveyance of real property that no longer constitutes an eligible request in the party’s home address, the eligible requesting party must submit the designated form to release the restriction on personal contact information, including the home address information, and a notarized affidavit affirming the designated form to the county register of deeds.

(I) Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit access to otherwise protected information in public records by applicable law including, but not limited to, the Driver's Privacy Protection Act (18 U.S.C. Section 2721, et seq.) and the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq.).

Chapter 2, Title 30 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 30‑2‑515. Any eligible requesting party may petition the court for an order directing compliance with this article. Liability may not accrue to a state or local government employee or to his agents for claims or damages that arise from personal contact information on the public record.

Judicial Personal Privacy Protection Act, definitions, restrictions, judicial relief, liability protection

SECTION 2. Section 30‑2‑700 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 30‑2‑700. For the purpose of this article:

(1) “Personal contact information” means the home address, personal cellular telephone number, or tax map number, if applicable, of the eligible requesting party.

(2) “Eligible requesting party” means an active or a former judge who has filed a formal request under the provisions of this article.

(3) “Disclosed records” means records accessible by a database or image of an official record, that are placed on a publicly available internet website maintained by or operated on behalf of a state or local government agency. Disclosed records for the purpose of this article do not include records available for purchase or through an account, by registration or subscription, from a state or local government agency.

SECTION 30‑2‑710 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 30‑2‑710. (A) An eligible requesting party’s personal contact information in a disclosed record shall be restricted on a publicly available internet website maintained by or operated on behalf of the state or local government agency if the judge:

(1) notifies the individual state or local government agency of the judge’s choice to restrict public access to personal contact information in disclosed records by submission of the designated form and any supplemental information requested by the state or local government agency; and

(2) provides a notarized affidavit affirming the current or prior service as a judge. The affidavit must include the contact information for the court administration office affiliated with the court the judge serves or previously served.

(B) A choice made under this article remains valid with the following exceptions:

(1) the judge rescinds in writing the request to restrict public access to or posting online of personal contact information and provides notice to the state or local government agency;

(2) the state or local government agencies disclose personal contact information related to violations of law or regulation, as permitted by law;

(3) the judge requests release of the judge’s personal contact information from a state or local government agency for a specific purpose and for a limited time;

(4) the personal contact information is included in a collision report or uniform traffic ticket maintained and provided by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, as permitted by law;

(5) the personal contact information is included on a business filing or Uniform Commercial Code filing recorded with the South Carolina Secretary of State; or

(6) the eligible requesting party’s request to restrict information does not apply to a subsequent home address of the eligible requesting party. The eligible requesting party is responsible for notifying, through the designated form, each state or local government agency of a subsequent home address, and any documents filed after the original request to restrict personal contact information including, but not limited to, changes to the mortgage on a property, or any change in personal contact information.

(C) Personal contact information provided under the provisions of this article may be disclosed under subpoena, by order of the court, upon written consent of the eligible judge, or to another government agency.

(D)(1) Personal contact information restricted from disclosed records under this section must remain within the official records held or maintained by a state or local government agency, but not be included within an index or displayed on an image of an official record on a publicly available internet website maintained or operated on behalf of a state or local government agency.

(2) In the event that a home address or tax map number cannot be restricted from a disclosed record within an index or from being displayed on an image of the official record on a publicly available internet website maintained or operated on behalf of a state or local government agency, then the image of the official record shall not be displayed and the state or local government agency must restrict the home address or tax map number portion from the display within the index, regardless of the location of the index.

(E) Any personal contact information, as defined under this article, must be restricted, if requested by an eligible requesting party, from any disclosed record, including the designated form used to notify the state or local government agency and supplemental information requested by the state or local government agency, otherwise eligible to be released under any other provision of law. The provisions of this article must not be construed to prevent the disclosure of other public information otherwise allowed by law.

(F) A state or local government agency that restricts or withholds information under this article shall provide to a requestor a description of the restricted or withheld information and a citation to this article.

(G) Personal contact information restricted pursuant to this article may be disclosed to:

(1) a title insurer or its affiliate;

(2) a title insurance agent or agency;

(3) the personal representative of a deceased eligible requesting party;

(4) an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of South Carolina and in good standing with the South Carolina Bar or a person appointed in writing by said attorney to receive the restricted information on his behalf; or

(5) a professional engineer or professional surveyor as defined under Section 40‑22‑20, or a person appointed in writing by said professional engineer or professional surveyor to receive the restricted information on his behalf.

(H) The restricted status of a home address contained in the official records within a county of register of deeds is maintained only during the period when an eligible requesting party resides at the dwelling location. Upon the conveyance of real property that no longer constitutes an eligible requesting party’s home address, the eligible requesting party must submit the designated form to release the restriction on personal contact information, including home address information, and a notarized affidavit affirming the designated form to the county register of deeds.

(I) Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit access to otherwise protected information available by applicable law including, but not limited to, the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act (18 U.S.C Section 2721, et seq.) and the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq.).

Chapter 2, Title 30 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 30‑2‑715. Any eligible requesting party may petition the court for an order directing compliance with this article. Liability may not accrue to a state or local government employee or to his agents for claims or damages that arise from personal contact information on the public record.

Law Enforcement Personal Privacy Protection Act and Judicial Personal Privacy Protection Act effective dates delayed

SECTION 3. The effective date of Act 56 of 2023, which enacted the “Law Enforcement Personal Privacy Protection Act” and the “Judicial Personal Privacy Protection Act,” is delayed from July 1, 2025, until January 1, 2026.

Directives to the Office of Court Administration and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

SECTION 4. The Office of Court Administration and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy shall collaborate to create the designated form for law enforcement officers and for judges to use to request a state or local government agency restrict public access to personal contact information in disclosed records. The form shall include a disclaimer to inform the requesting party the request is specific to the state or local government agency and will not be provided to other entities or apply to changes in personal contact information. The form must contain fields for the following:

(1) the requesting party’s personal information including, but not limited to, legal name, date of birth, home address, driver’s license information, personal email address, and where applicable, tax map numbers;

(2) the dates of service and status of service;

(3) the location of personal contact information in disclosed records by instrument number, book and page number of the copy or image, docket number, file number, vehicle identification number or title number; and

(4) an exception section to notify a state or local government agency of rescission of the request to restrict personal contact information and to permit disclosure of personal contact information for a specific purpose and for a limited time.

A state or local government agency may provide a supplemental form for the purposes of identifying information needed by the state or local government agency to address the eligible requesting party’s request.

Time effective

SECTION 5. This act takes effect on January 1, 2026.

Ratified the 24th day of April, 2025.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2025.

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Governor

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