

1-1 By: Landgraf (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 3698  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2023;  
1-3 May 4, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 10, 2023, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 10, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to expanding access to the protective order registry and  
1-16 the inclusion of certain information regarding a person who is the  
1-17 subject of a protective order in that registry.

1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-19 SECTION 1. Section 72.154(a), Government Code, is amended  
1-20 to read as follows:

1-21 (a) Subject to Subsections (c) and (d) and Section 72.158,  
1-22 the office shall establish and maintain the registry in a manner  
1-23 that allows a member of the public, free of charge, to  
1-24 electronically search for and receive publicly accessible  
1-25 information contained in the registry regarding each protective  
1-26 order issued in this state. The registry must be searchable by:

1-27 (1) the county of issuance;

1-28 (2) the name of a person who is the subject of the  
1-29 protective order; ~~and~~

1-30 (3) any known common misspellings of the name of a  
1-31 person who is the subject of the protective order;

1-32 (4) any known aliases of a person who is the subject of  
1-33 the protective order; and

1-34 (5) the birth year of a person who is the subject of  
1-35 the protective order.

1-36 SECTION 2. Section 72.155, Government Code, is amended to  
1-37 read as follows:

1-38 Sec. 72.155. RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PROTECTIVE ORDER  
1-39 REGISTRY. (a) The registry must include a copy of each application  
1-40 for a protective order filed in this state and a copy of each  
1-41 protective order issued in this state, including an expired order,  
1-42 or a vacated order other than an order that was vacated as the  
1-43 result of an appeal or bill of review from a district or county  
1-44 court. Only an authorized user, the attorney general, a district  
1-45 attorney, a criminal district attorney, a county attorney, a  
1-46 municipal attorney, a magistrate, or a peace officer may access  
1-47 that information under the registry.

1-48 (b) The office shall ensure that an authorized user, the  
1-49 attorney general, a district attorney, a criminal district  
1-50 attorney, a county attorney, a municipal attorney, a magistrate, or  
1-51 a peace officer is able to search for and receive a copy of a filed  
1-52 application for a protective order or a copy of an issued protective  
1-53 order through the registry's Internet website.

1-54 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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