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**CALIFORNIA PRIVACY PROTECTION AGENCY**

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**Date:** April 16, 2026

**To:** California Privacy Protection Agency Board  
(Meeting of May 1, 2026)

**From:** Maureen Mahoney, Deputy Director of Policy and Legislation

**Subject:** **Agenda Item 3 — Legislative Update and Authorization of Agency Positions on Pending Legislation. AB 883 (Lowenthal, Elected officials and judges)**

This bill, authored by Assemblymember Lowenthal, seeks to protect government officials by establishing an expedited process to have their information deleted from data brokers.<sup>1</sup> Initially introduced in 2025 to restrict agencies from sharing certain protected information, the bill was amended in full this session to offer additional privacy protections to elected officials and judges under the Delete Act and align with AB 302 (Bauer-Kahan) which the Board took a “support if amended” position on in 2025. This bill has passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate. Because this bill contains many of the issues raised with respect to AB 302, a bill that is also still active this year, staff recommends a support if amended position.

### **Summary**

Both the federal government and the state of New Jersey have enacted laws that give certain public servants the right to have their residential addresses redacted from government agency websites and certain public records.<sup>2</sup> These laws also provide rights to limit additional public disclosures of such information. The federal statute, for example, limits data brokers from purchasing or selling the data and the New Jersey law allows the covered individuals to submit requests to private, non-governmental websites to have their residential information taken down.

Existing California law, commonly known as the Delete Act, requires every data broker, defined as a business that knowingly collects and sells to third parties the personal information of a consumer with whom the business does not have a direct relationship, to register with the California Privacy Protection Agency (Agency) each year and to disclose specified information. The Agency is required to create and maintain a public website that includes the information provided by the data brokers.

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<sup>1</sup> AB 883 (2025), [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB883](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB883)

The Delete Act also requires the Agency to establish an accessible deletion mechanism, the Delete Request and Opt-Out Platform (DROP), which launched on January 1, 2026 that, among other things, allows a consumer, through a single verifiable consumer request, to request that every data broker that maintains personal information delete any personal information related to that consumer held by the data broker or associated service provider or contractor. Beginning in August 2026, data brokers, in turn, are required to access the accessible deletion mechanism once every 45 days and process any deletion requests that have been submitted.

This bill establishes a new section within the Delete Act providing for an expedited process through which specified governmental officials can have their personal information deleted from data brokers. The protections the bill apply to elected state and local officials and California judges. It is effective January 1, 2027.

Under the bill, the Secretary of State is tasked with providing a list of all elected state and local officials and contact information for each to CalPrivacy and must update the list following the certification of any final election. CalPrivacy must then offer the elected officials on the list provided an opportunity to be removed from the list before it is processed. Additionally, CalPrivacy is tasked with receiving a list of California judges from the Judicial Council, which includes profile data specified by the Agency, and such list shall serve as the judges' request for deletion. CalPrivacy is then tasked with submitting deletion requests under the Delete Act on behalf of the elected officials and judges on the lists provided.

The bill provides that deletion requests submitted pursuant to this section would produce a notification to data brokers and that the deletion request be processed within 5 calendar days of such notification. Additionally, the amendments provide that the information sharing required under the bill be done via a secure and confidential exchange.

The bill states that the new provisions are enforceable by an elected official or judge on the submitted lists, the Attorney General, a county council, or a city attorney.

## **Analysis**

In staff's view, expanding privacy protections for government officials is an important goal, especially in light of recent increased violence directed at state officials. While we appreciate that the author has not included the requirement in AB 302 that the Agency build the lists of elected officials, unfortunately, as currently drafted, AB 883 has substantial issues.

First, the bill is not feasible without delayed implementation. AB 883 establishes certain technological features that are not currently available in DROP that will take time and resources to design and build. For example, the platform was designed to meet the law's current requirement that data brokers process deletion requests within 45 days. Developing the technological capabilities to process a unique set of requests with a 5-day deletion turnaround will require changes to

DROP's existing architecture. Furthermore, there will not be an actual or appropriated budget to implement these changes in the system by January 1, 2027. The budget and technical changes needed to accommodate the new requirements of AB 883 will require time that the bill does not account for.

Second, the bill creates a conflict with provisions of the Delete Act requiring that deletion requests are privacy-protective.<sup>2</sup> As currently drafted, the bill requires the Secretary of State and the Judicial Council to collect and transfer to the Agency data to create a deletion request. Both processes require that personal data is collected and transferred among various parties prior to being submitted into DROP, introducing new privacy and security concerns. We suggest amendments that would either allow each official to directly enter their personal information into DROP or provide that the entity developing the list submit a minimal amount of information directly into DROP to initiate a request that the official can then complete themselves.

Finally, the bill tasks the Agency with information collection and curation responsibilities that are inefficient and beyond the scope and mission of the Agency. Under the bill, once the Agency receives the list of elected officials from the Secretary of State, staff must then contact each official to confirm that they would like a deletion request submitted on their behalf. Staff estimates this could comprise outreach to approximately 25,000 people. Instead, the Secretary of State should provide lists with only the elected officials that would like to submit DROP requests.

Because the bill establishes processes that are ill-suited for the Agency, in conflict with the Delete Act, and not feasible within the time frames provided, staff recommends that the Agency adopt a position of support if amended to address these issues.

**Recommendation:** Support if amended (1) to delay implementation at least one year; (2) to adjust the bill to use the privacy and security protections of the existing DROP architecture; and (3) to charge an appropriate entity with verifying elected officials for inclusion on the deletion request list.

## **Public Support/Opposition**

Per the January 10 Assembly Privacy Committee bill analysis:<sup>3</sup>

### Support:

Californians for Consumer Privacy

### Opposition:

California Chamber of Commerce

Computer & Communications Industry Association

TechCA

TechNet

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<sup>2</sup> Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.99.86(b)(3).

<sup>3</sup> California Assembly Privacy & Consumer Protection Committee Analysis at 10 (January 10, 2026)  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB883](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB883)

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