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Senate Bill 121 – Personal Information - Public Servant Protections

February 12, 2026

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Letter of Information (with concerns)

Senate Bill 121 is important legislation to consider because of the dangers state employees encounter with their private information being available online on public and private websites. This legislation aims to remove public information about sensitive private information from public sector sources. Our Address Confidentiality Program is very different from the one the Judiciary runs because their program aims to remove and scrub information that is online, while our program is more of a mail forwarding service with the ability to also shield deeds prospectively.

This legislation is generally modeled after the Judiciary's Wilkinson Act of 2023 and also requires us to do some of the time consuming and labor-intensive work of mail forwarding and deed shielding as well. The Judiciary decided to create their own program because they didn't want to have their judges be forced to move to qualify for our program. They also realized the importance of scrubbing records that are posted online, but since they weren't required to move, that made the job much harder because they also had to scrub public info that was previously collected by data brokers and sold on the marketplace.

The anticipated costs to administer this program can be calculated through multiplication of the cost to implement the judiciary's program, which only covers some 400 judges. The estimated scope of SB 121 would include some 20,000+ individuals, or 50 times the number of individuals covered by the judiciary. The payroll for the judiciary to complete their role is over \$300,000 a year. The responsibly to talk with concerned participants, sort mail, shield

deeds, and communicate with entities participants fear exposed their personal information is already daunting.

Additionally, the cost of scrubbing the public sector pages doesn't include the important and necessary cost of also scrubbing information sold by data brokers from previously published information. If the participants are not moving, their addresses are online and would have to be scrubbed. The Judiciary indicated that they currently pay around \$300 per covered individual for the DeleteMe service. But that rate will vary based on the particulars of the procurement you negotiate. Our team lacks the technical expertise to scrub information both in the public sector and the private data brokers, so we would depend on cooperation from DoIT, the counties, as well as a vendor like DeleteMe. Other agencies will also have to make requests to us, and we would then have to relay that to a vendor. The chances of legal liability are substantial under the language and structure of the bill.

In conclusion, our program may be called the Address Confidentiality Program, but the duty imposed on use through this legislation would require a completely new function, and it could also create a false sense of security as well as a two-tiered system of protection. We certainly would want our 2,134 participants to also be able to have their data scrubbed, although we do our best to ensure the genie never gets out of the bottle. If you are not required to move, the scrubbing becomes much more labor intensive, expensive, and complicated.

We would welcome questions from any members of this committee.