

California AB 82 (Ward): What You Need to Know

What is AB 82?

AB 82 is a bill authored by Assemblymember Chris Ward that focuses on privacy and protection. It recognizes that people who seek, provide, or support gender-affirming and reproductive care are often targeted with harassment, threats, or even legal risks from outside California. This bill takes important steps to make California safer for our community.

Key Protections in the Bill

Protect personal information: Makes it illegal to post or spread personal details or photos of people providing or receiving legally protected care in ways that put them at risk (“anti-doxing”).

Expand confidentiality programs: Allows health care providers, employees, volunteers, and patients at gender-affirming clinics to use California’s address confidentiality program (so their home address can’t be easily found).

Clear old records: Requires the California Department of Justice to delete some sensitive prescription records by 2027.

\$0 bail safeguard: If someone is arrested in California for an out-of-state case linked to this type of health care, they would be released without bail.



Why It Matters

For transgender individuals, reproductive health patients, and the providers who support them, AB 82 offers stronger privacy and protection from harassment.

For families and allies, it signals that California continues to be a safe haven for legally protected care.

AB 82 will officially take effect on January 1, 2026, but some parts will take additional time to roll out. While most protections begin immediately, such as privacy rules and safeguards for legally protected health care activity, certain elements, like the expansion of Confidentiality for gender-affirming and reproductive health care providers, will require extra time for the Secretary of State to implement new systems and procedures. Other provisions, including updates to prescription data reporting and record removals, are scheduled to phase in through 2026, with full implementation by January 1, 2027.