



California SB 59 (Weiner): What You Need to Know

What is SB 59?

SB 59, introduced by Senator Scott Wiener, strengthens privacy and safety protections for people who legally change their name, gender, or sex identifier in California courts. SB 59 increases protections by making court records confidential, giving individuals more control over how and when their personal information is shared. SB 59 continues California's commitment to ensuring that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people can live safely and authentically without fear of harassment, outing, or discrimination tied to their legal identity documents.

Key Protections of the Bill:

Expands Confidentiality to All Ages

Makes court records for legal name or gender changes automatically confidential for everyone, not just minors, starting July 1, 2026.

This means petitions, orders, and related documents won't be accessible to the public.



Protects Past Records

People who changed their name or gender marker before July 1, 2026, can request confidentiality after the fact.

Once granted, their records will be made confidential and protected just like new ones.

Stops Public Posting of Sensitive Information & Adds Legal Remedies

Prohibits anyone including individuals, media outlets, or online platforms from publishing or sharing confidential court records related to a person's name or gender change. This protection prevents "doxxing" or the public outing of someone's identity without their consent.

If these records are shared without permission, SB 59 gives people the right to take legal action. They can ask a court to stop the disclosure, require the removal of the information, and seek damages and attorney's fees from whoever violated their privacy. This ensures that if someone's confidential records are exposed, they have clear, enforceable remedies to protect themselves and hold others accountable.

Why it Matters

SB 59 makes it safer and more private for people to legally change their name or gender in California. It extends confidentiality protections once limited to minors to now everyone, so court records are automatically made confidential and can't be publicly shared. The bill also lets people who changed their name or gender in the past request confidentiality now and gives them the right to take legal action if someone wrongfully exposes their information.

SB 59 takes effect immediately and helps ensure that trans, nonbinary, and intersex people can live openly and authentically, without fear of being outed or targeted.