



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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Legislative Document

No. 2121

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H.P. 1436

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

**An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials,  
Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain  
Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public  
Records**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and

Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §90-J** is enacted to read:

3 **§90-J. Information privacy**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Authorized person" means a covered person or any of the following persons  
7 authorized to submit or revoke a request for the redaction or nondisclosure of a home  
8 address on behalf of a covered person:

9 (1) On behalf of any federal judge, a designee of the United States Department of  
10 Justice, United States Marshals Service or of the clerk of any United States District  
11 Court, as long as the designee submits the affirmation required under this section  
12 signed by the federal judge for whom a request or revocation is made;

13 (2) On behalf of any covered person who is deceased or medically or  
14 psychologically incapacitated, a person acting on behalf of the covered person as  
15 a designated trustee, as an estate executor or personal representative or pursuant to  
16 a written power of attorney or other legal instrument, as long as the person signs  
17 and submits the affirmation required under this section on behalf of the covered  
18 person; and

19 (3) On behalf of any immediate family member who is a minor and who is  
20 otherwise entitled to address redaction or nondisclosure pursuant to this section,  
21 the parent or legal guardian of that minor.

22 B. "Covered person" means an active, formerly active or retired judicial officer,  
23 member of Congress, state Legislator, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer  
24 of State or State Auditor and an immediate family member.

25 C. "Director" means the director of the Office of Information Privacy.

26 D. "Immediate family member" means a spouse, child or parent of, or any other family  
27 member related by blood or by law to, an active, formerly active or retired judicial  
28 officer, member of Congress, state Legislator, Attorney General, Secretary of State,  
29 Treasurer of State or State Auditor and who resides in the same household as that  
30 person.

31 E. "Office" means the Office of Information Privacy established in subsection 2.

32 **2. Office of Information Privacy; director.** The Office of Information Privacy is  
33 established in the Department of the Secretary of State. The office is led by a director, who  
34 must be appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of State and who may hire  
35 staff as necessary.

36 A. The director shall establish:

37 (1) A secure electronic portal through which an authorized person may submit or  
38 revoke a request for the redaction or nondisclosure of a covered person's home  
39 address from certain records and publicly available online resources, as provided  
40 in this section. Such a request is not subject to disclosure under any statute or rule  
41 governing disclosure of public information;

1                   (2) A process by which an authorized person may petition the director for  
2                   reconsideration of a denial of a request for the redaction or nondisclosure of a  
3                   covered person's home address or revocation of such a request under subparagraph  
4                   (1);

5                   (3) A process by which a person or entity may request a record that does not  
6                   contain a redaction or a nondisclosure; and

7                   (4) A process for the evaluation of any exceptions other than those under this  
8                   paragraph to the requirement for redaction or nondisclosure pursuant to this  
9                   section, whether categorical or individualized. The director may grant an exception  
10                  to any person or entity for the receipt of the unredacted records or information  
11                  pursuant to this process.

12                  B. The director shall evaluate and either approve or deny a request submitted pursuant  
13                  to paragraph A or a revocation of a request submitted pursuant to paragraph A.

14                  C. The director may enter into any agreement or contract necessary to effectuate the  
15                  purposes of this section.

16                  D. The director may issue any guidance, guidelines or decisions or adopt rules  
17                  necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section in accordance with the provisions  
18                  of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph  
19                  are routine technical rules as described in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

20                  **3. Information redaction, nondisclosure request; enforcement.** An authorized  
21                  person seeking the redaction or nondisclosure of the home address of any covered person  
22                  from certain records and publicly available online resources shall submit a request in  
23                  accordance with this section to the office through the secure electronic portal established  
24                  under subsection 2, paragraph A. The address is subject to redaction or nondisclosure only  
25                  if a request is submitted to and approved by the director.

26                  A. A state, county or municipal government, or a department or agency of a state,  
27                  county or municipal government, shall redact or cease to disclose, respectively, the  
28                  home address of a covered person approved by the office not later than 30 days  
29                  following the approval. A state, county or municipal government, or a department or  
30                  agency of a state, county or municipal government, also shall discontinue the redaction  
31                  or nondisclosure of the home address of any covered person for whom a revocation  
32                  request has been approved not later than 30 days following the revocation approval.

33                  B. A custodian of records of a government, department or agency listed in paragraph  
34                  A who makes a reasonable effort to comply with this subsection must be presumed to  
35                  have acted without willful, purposeful or reckless disregard of the law.

36                  C. An immediate family member who sought and received approval for redaction or  
37                  nondisclosure and who no longer resides with the covered person shall submit through  
38                  the portal a revocation request not later than 30 days from the date on which the  
39                  immediate family member no longer resided with the covered person.

40                  D. An authorized person submitting a request for redaction or nondisclosure pursuant  
41                  to this subsection shall affirm in writing that the covered person understands that  
42                  certain rights, duties and obligations are affected because of the request, including:

- 1           (1) The signing of petitions related to the nomination or election of a candidate to  
2           public office or related to any public question;
- 3           (2) The eligibility or requirements related to seeking or accepting the nomination  
4           for election or election to public office, or the appointment to any public position;
- 5           (3) The sale or purchase of a home or other property, recordation of a judgment,  
6           lien or other encumbrance on real or other property and any relief granted based  
7           on the sale or purchase of a home or other property or recordation of a judgment,  
8           lien or other encumbrance on real or other property;
- 9           (4) The ability to be notified of any class action suit or settlement; and
- 10          (5) Any other legal, promotional or official notice that would otherwise be  
11          provided to the person but for the redaction or nondisclosure of the person's home  
12          address pursuant to this subsection.

13          **4. Exceptions.** The following exceptions apply to the requirement to redact, and the  
14          prohibition against the disclosure of, a home address pursuant to subsection 3.

15          A. Copies of voter registration files maintained in the central voter registration system  
16          as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 6-A must be provided as redacted  
17          pursuant to this section, but copies of the files as unredacted must be provided to the  
18          following individuals, upon the individual's signing of an affidavit attesting to the  
19          individual's qualifying status:

- 20               (1) The chair of the state, county or municipal committee of a political party, or a  
21               designee of the chair, for distribution to any person authorized to serve as a  
22               challenger in an election;
- 23               (2) A candidate acting as a challenger in an election;
- 24               (3) A vendor, contractor or organization carrying out a function of a municipality  
25               or county or of the State concerning the administration or conduct of elections; and
- 26               (4) A person who has the right to obtain a copy of voter registration files pursuant  
27               to an order of a Justice of the Superior Court after a finding that the unredacted  
28               copy is necessary to determine the merits of a pending case.

29          B. Except as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (3), a document affecting the title  
30          to real property, recorded and indexed by a register of deeds or as otherwise held or  
31          maintained by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of  
32          Revenue Services, a county board of commissioners, a county official responsible for  
33          tax administration or a county or municipal tax assessor, that contains a home address  
34          subject to redaction or nondisclosure consistent with this section may instead or in  
35          addition include the redaction and nondisclosure of the names or other information of  
36          covered persons, as specified by the State Tax Assessor. The redaction and  
37          nondisclosure may include masking of the covered person's names or other  
38          information, and the document must be provided as unredacted to the following  
39          persons when requested in the person's ordinary course of business:

- 40               (1) A title insurance company, a title insurance agent or an attorney;
- 41               (2) A mortgage guarantee insurance company;
- 42               (3) A mortgage loan originator;

- 1                   (4) An entity that performs title searches;  
2                   (5) A real estate broker or a real estate salesperson; and  
3                   (6) An individual or business that has made or received an offer for the purchase  
4                   of real estate or real property, or any portion of real estate or real property, to or  
5                   from a covered person.

6                   C. The following are not subject to redaction or nondisclosure pursuant to subsection  
7                   3:

8                   (1) Records and documents, including Uniform Commercial Code filings and  
9                   financing statements, maintained by the Department of the Secretary of State,  
10                   bureau of corporations, elections and commissions, division of corporations,  
11                   uniform commercial code and commissions;

12                   (2) Petitions naming candidates for office;

13                   (3) Records evidencing any lien, judgment or other encumbrance upon real or  
14                   other property; and

15                   (4) Records pertaining to property that is presumed abandoned under the Maine  
16                   Revised Unclaimed Property Act.

17                   D. A public agency may share unredacted information with a vendor, contractor or  
18                   organization to carry out the purposes for which the public agency entered into an  
19                   agreement with the vendor, contractor or organization. The vendor, contractor or  
20                   organization may not use such information in any manner other than as necessary to  
21                   carry out the purposes of the agreement.

22                   E. For the purposes of the calculation of property tax benefits and the administration  
23                   of property tax credits for covered persons, a municipality may share unredacted  
24                   property tax information with the State Tax Assessor, and the State Tax Assessor may  
25                   provide to a municipality the property tax credits to be applied against property tax  
26                   bills of covered persons who are eligible claimants.

27                   **5. Information shared with governmental entity.** This section may not be construed  
28                   to require redaction or nondisclosure of any information in any document, record or  
29                   database shared with or otherwise provided to any other governmental entity.

30                   **6. Register of deeds returning document.** This section may not be construed to  
31                   prohibit a register of deeds from returning a document as unredacted to any person who  
32                   submitted the document for recordation.

33                   **7. Information provided upon court order.** Information otherwise subject to  
34                   redaction or nondisclosure pursuant to this section may be provided as unredacted upon  
35                   order of a Justice of the Superior Court or of any other court of competent jurisdiction.

36                   **8. Availability of records.** This section may not be construed to require a record to  
37                   be made available that is not otherwise required to be made available under any other law  
38                   or rule.

39                   **9. State Tax Assessor may issue guidance or adopt rules.** The State Tax Assessor  
40                   may issue any guidance or guidelines or adopt rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of  
41                   this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as  
42                   described in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

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This bill allows specified public officials, and their immediate family members, to request that certain personal information, including residential addresses, be removed from public records and publicly available online resources maintained by state, county and municipal government agencies. The bill establishes the Office of Information Privacy in the Department of the Secretary of State to administer the provisions of the bill.