

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2026

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2344**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Haney**

February 19, 2026

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~~An act to amend Section 1 of the Government Code, relating to state government.~~ *An act to add Sections 600.9, 600.10, and 600.11 to the Penal Code, relating to animal abuse.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2344, as amended, Haney. ~~Government Code.~~ *Animal abuse: registry: internet publication.*

*(1) Existing law requires persons convicted of arson and sex crimes to register with local law enforcement, as provided. The Department of Justice is required to make specified information about certain sex offenders available to the public via an internet website and to update that information on an ongoing basis.*

*This bill would require any person over 18 years of age who is convicted of felony animal abuse, as defined, to register with the appropriate law enforcement agency, as provided, for a period of 10 years from the date of conviction. The bill would require that the registration consist of a signed written statement of specified information, including, but not limited to, legal name and aliases, date of birth, address or current location, name and address of employer, and the specific felony animal abuse conviction for which the person is required to register. The registration would also consist of a photograph of the person, a complete set of fingerprints, and a description of any tattoos, scars, or other distinguishing features on the person's body that would assist in identifying the person. The bill*

would require that, within 3 days after the registration, the registering law enforcement agency electronically forward the statement, fingerprints, and photograph of the registrant to the Department of Justice. By increasing duties on local law enforcement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would make any person required to register who violates any of those provisions guilty of a misdemeanor, and if the person willfully fails to register, they would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by not less than 90 days and not more than one year in a county jail. The bill would allow a person to be relieved of the duty to register only as specified.

The bill, on or before January 1, 2028, would require the department to make available information concerning persons who are required to register as a result of felony animal abuse convictions to the public via an internet website, as specified. The department would be required to update the internet website on an ongoing basis. The name or address of the person's employer and the listed person's criminal history other than the specific crimes for which the person is required to register would be prohibited from being included on the internet website. The registration information that would be required to be published on the internet website would include, but not be limited to, their name and known aliases, a photograph, a physical description, including gender and race, date of birth, criminal history, the address at which the person resides or the county in which the person is registered as a transient, and any other information that the Department of Justice deems relevant. The bill would require that the department make a reasonable effort to provide notice to affected offenders that the department is required to make information about those people available to the public. A person would be removed from the internet website if they are relieved of the duty to register, as specified.

The bill would also provide that any person who uses information disclosed pursuant to the internet website to commit a crime is punishable by a fine of not less than \$10,000, nor more than \$50,000. The bill would make it a misdemeanor for an offender who is required to register to enter the internet website, and would provide for civil liability for the misuse of the information from the internet website. Because this bill would create these and other new crimes as specified above, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would require a person who has been convicted of a specified offense against an animal to, in addition to any other fine imposed, pay

a penalty of \$500 for a felony conviction. This bill would establish the Animal Protection Fund in the State Treasury and would require the moneys from the above fines be deposited into the fund, to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for creating, administering, and updating the internet website as required by the bill, and to local governments for spay and neuter programs.

(2)The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

~~Existing law establishes the Government Code and prescribes general provisions for purposes of its interpretation.~~

~~This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provision naming the Government Code.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 600.9 is added to the Penal Code, to read:
- 2 600.9. (a) As used in this section, “animal abuse” means a
- 3 felony conviction of Section 597, 597b, 597.5, or 600, or a felony
- 4 conviction for an attempt to commit one of those offenses, or a
- 5 felony conviction for a comparable offense in another state.
- 6 (b) (1) Every person, over 18 years of age, as described in
- 7 paragraph (2), for the periods specified therein, shall, while
- 8 residing in, or if the person has no residence, while located in,
- 9 California, be required to, within 10 days of coming into this state,
- 10 or changing the person’s residence or location within any city,
- 11 county, city and county, or campus wherein the person temporarily
- 12 resides, or if the person has no residence, is located, in this state:
- 13 (A) Register with the chief of police of the city where the person
- 14 is residing, or if the person has no residence, where the person is
- 15 located.

1 (B) Register with the sheriff of the county where the person is  
2 residing, or if the person has no residence, where the person is  
3 located in an unincorporated area or city that has no police  
4 department.

5 (C) In addition to subparagraph (A) or (B) above, register with  
6 the chief of police of a campus of the University of California, the  
7 California State University, or the California Community Colleges  
8 where the person is residing, or if the person has no residence,  
9 where the person is located upon the campus or any of its facilities.

10 (2) Any person who is convicted in any court in this state of  
11 animal abuse shall be required to register, in accordance with the  
12 provisions of this section, for a period of 10 years, commencing  
13 from the date of conviction.

14 (c) Any person required to register pursuant to this section who  
15 is discharged or paroled from a jail, prison, school, road camp,  
16 or other penal institution, where they were confined because of  
17 the commission of animal abuse, shall, prior to the discharge,  
18 parole, or release, be informed of their duty to register under this  
19 section by the official in charge of the place of confinement. The  
20 official shall require the person to read and sign the form as may  
21 be required by the Department of Justice, stating that the duty of  
22 the person to register under this section has been explained to  
23 them. The official in charge of the place of confinement shall obtain  
24 the address where the person expects to reside upon their  
25 discharge, parole, or release and shall report the address to the  
26 Department of Justice. The official in charge of the place of  
27 confinement shall give one copy of the form to the person, and  
28 shall, not later than 45 days prior to the scheduled release of the  
29 person, send one copy to the appropriate law enforcement agency  
30 having local jurisdiction where the person expects to reside upon  
31 their discharge, parole, or release, one copy to the prosecuting  
32 agency that prosecuted the person, and one copy to the Department  
33 of Justice. The official in charge of the place of confinement shall  
34 retain one copy. All forms shall be transmitted in time so as to be  
35 received by the local law enforcement agency and prosecuting  
36 agency 30 days prior to the discharge, parole, or release of the  
37 person.

38 (d) Any person who is required to register pursuant to this  
39 section who is released on probation or discharged upon payment  
40 of a fine shall, prior to the release or discharge, be informed of

1 *their duty to register under this section by the probation department*  
2 *of the county in which they have been convicted, and the probation*  
3 *officer shall require the person to read and sign the form as may*  
4 *be required by the Department of Justice, stating that the duty of*  
5 *the person to register under this section has been explained to*  
6 *them. The probation officer shall obtain the address where the*  
7 *person expects to reside upon their release or discharge and shall*  
8 *report within three days the address to the Department of Justice.*  
9 *The probation officer shall give one copy of the form to the person,*  
10 *and shall send one copy to the appropriate law enforcement agency*  
11 *having local jurisdiction where the person expects to reside upon*  
12 *their discharge or release, and one copy to the Department of*  
13 *Justice. The probation officer shall also retain one copy.*

14 *(e) (1) The registration shall consist of all of the following*  
15 *information:*

16 *(A) A statement in writing signed by the person, giving all of*  
17 *the following information:*

18 *(i) The legal name and any other names or aliases that the*  
19 *person is using or has used.*

20 *(ii) Date of birth.*

21 *(iii) The current address or location of the person.*

22 *(iv) Name and address of employer.*

23 *(v) Animal abuse offense for which the person was convicted.*

24 *(vi) The date and place of the animal abuse offense conviction*  
25 *of the person.*

26 *(vii) Any other information as may be required by the*  
27 *Department of Justice.*

28 *(B) The complete set of fingerprints and a photograph of the*  
29 *person.*

30 *(C) A description of any tattoos, scars, or other distinguishing*  
31 *features on the person's body that would assist in identifying the*  
32 *person.*

33 *(2) Within three days after registration, the registering law*  
34 *enforcement agency shall electronically forward the statement,*  
35 *fingerprints, and photograph to the Department of Justice.*

36 *(f) If any person required to register by this section changes*  
37 *their residence address, they shall inform, in writing within 10*  
38 *days, the law enforcement agency with whom they last registered*  
39 *of their new address. The law enforcement agency shall, within*  
40 *three days after receipt of the information, electronically forward*

1 *it to the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice shall*  
2 *forward appropriate registration data to the law enforcement*  
3 *agency having local jurisdiction of the new place of residence.*

4 *(g) Any person required to register under this section who*  
5 *violates any of the provisions thereof is guilty of a misdemeanor.*  
6 *Any person who has been convicted of animal abuse who is*  
7 *required to register under this section who willfully violates any*  
8 *of the provisions thereof is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be*  
9 *sentenced to serve a term of not less than 90 days nor more than*  
10 *one year in a county jail. In no event does the court have the power*  
11 *to absolve a person who willfully violates this section from the*  
12 *obligation of spending at least 90 days of confinement in a county*  
13 *jail and of completing probation of at least one year.*

14 *(h) Certain of the information required by this section shall be*  
15 *open to inspection by the public, pursuant to Section 600.10,*  
16 *through the use of an internet website maintained by the*  
17 *Department of Justice, or by telephone or upon written request*  
18 *where practicable.*

19 *(i) In any case in which a person who would be required to*  
20 *register pursuant to this section is to be temporarily sent outside*  
21 *the institution where they are confined on any assignment within*  
22 *a city or county, the local law enforcement agency having*  
23 *jurisdiction over the place or places where that assignment shall*  
24 *occur shall be notified within a reasonable time prior to removal*  
25 *from the institution. This subdivision shall not apply to any person*  
26 *temporarily released under guard from the institution where they*  
27 *are confined.*

28 *(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with*  
29 *Section 1203.4 concerning termination of probation and release*  
30 *from penalties and disabilities of probation.*

31 *(k) A person required to register under this section may initiate*  
32 *a proceeding under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section*  
33 *4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 and, upon obtaining a certificate of*  
34 *rehabilitation, shall be relieved of any further duty to register*  
35 *under this section. This certificate shall not relieve the petitioner*  
36 *of the duty to register under this section for any offense subject to*  
37 *this section of which they are convicted in the future.*

38 *SEC. 2. Section 600.10 is added to the Penal Code, to read:*

39 *600.10. (a) (1) On or before the dates specified in this section,*  
40 *the Department of Justice shall make available information*

1 *concerning persons who are required to register pursuant to*  
2 *Section 600.9 to the public via an internet website as specified in*  
3 *this section. The department shall update the internet website on*  
4 *an ongoing basis. The name or address of the person's employer*  
5 *and the listed person's criminal history other than the specific*  
6 *crimes for which the person is required to register shall not be*  
7 *included on the internet website. The internet website shall be*  
8 *translated into languages other than English as determined by the*  
9 *department.*

10 (2) (A) *On or before January 1, 2028, the Department of Justice*  
11 *shall make available to the public, via an internet website as*  
12 *specified in this section, as to any person described in subdivision*  
13 *(b), the following information:*

14 (i) *The year of conviction of their most recent offense requiring*  
15 *registration pursuant to Section 600.9.*

16 (ii) *The year they were released from incarceration for that*  
17 *offense.*

18 (iii) *Whether they were subsequently incarcerated for any other*  
19 *felony, if that fact is reported to the department. If the department*  
20 *has no information about a subsequent incarceration for any*  
21 *felony, that fact shall be noted on the internet website.*

22 *However, no year of conviction shall be made available to the*  
23 *public unless the department also is able to make available the*  
24 *corresponding year of release of incarceration for that offense,*  
25 *and the required notation regarding any subsequent felony.*

26 (B) (i) *Any state facility that releases from incarceration a*  
27 *person who was incarcerated because of a crime for which they*  
28 *are required to register pursuant to Section 600.9 shall, within 30*  
29 *days of release, provide the year of release for their most recent*  
30 *offense requiring registration to the Department of Justice in a*  
31 *manner and format approved by the department.*

32 (ii) *Any state facility that releases a person who is required to*  
33 *register pursuant to Section 600.9 from incarceration whose*  
34 *incarceration was for a felony committed subsequent to the offense*  
35 *for which they are required to register shall, within 30 days of*  
36 *release, advise the Department of Justice of that fact.*

37 (b) *On or before January 1, 2028, with respect to a person who*  
38 *has been convicted of the commission of any of the offenses listed*  
39 *in subdivision (a) of Section 600.9, the Department of Justice shall*  
40 *make available to the public via the internet website, the*

1 information included in the person's registration, including, but  
2 not limited to, their name and known aliases, a photograph, a  
3 physical description, including gender and race, date of birth,  
4 criminal history, the address at which the person resides or the  
5 city, county, or city and county in which the person is registered  
6 as a transient, and any other information that the Department of  
7 Justice deems relevant, but not the information excluded pursuant  
8 to subdivision (a).

9 (c) The Department of Justice shall make a reasonable effort  
10 to provide notification to persons who have been convicted of the  
11 commission of an offense specified in subdivision (a) of Section  
12 600.9, that on or before January 1, 2028, the department is  
13 required to make information about offenders available to the  
14 public via an internet website as specified in this section.

15 (d) (1) A designated law enforcement entity may make available  
16 information concerning persons who are required to register  
17 pursuant to Section 600.9 to the public via an internet website as  
18 specified in paragraph (2).

19 (2) The law enforcement entity may make available by way of  
20 an internet website the information described in subdivision (b) if  
21 it determines that the public disclosure of the information about  
22 a specific offender by way of the entity's internet website is  
23 necessary to ensure the public safety based upon information  
24 available to the entity concerning that specific offender.

25 (3) The information that may be provided pursuant to this  
26 subdivision may include the information specified in subdivision  
27 (b).

28 (4) For purposes of this section, "designated law enforcement  
29 entity" means the Department of Justice, every district attorney,  
30 the department, and every state or local agency expressly  
31 authorized by statute to investigate or prosecute law violators.

32 (e) Notwithstanding Section 7921.505 of the Government Code,  
33 disclosure of information pursuant to this section is not a waiver  
34 of exemptions under Division 10 (commencing with Section  
35 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code and does not affect  
36 other statutory restrictions on disclosure in other situations.

37 (f) The department shall also make the information on the  
38 internet website available by telephone and upon written request  
39 where practicable.

1 (g) Any person who uses information disclosed pursuant to this  
2 section to commit a crime shall be subject to, in addition to any  
3 other penalty or fine imposed, a fine of not less than ten thousand  
4 dollars (\$10,000) and not more than fifty thousand dollars  
5 (\$50,000).

6 (h) Any person who is required to register pursuant to Section  
7 600.9 who enters an internet website established pursuant to this  
8 section shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand  
9 dollars (\$1,000), imprisonment in a county jail for a period not to  
10 exceed six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

11 (i) (1) A person is authorized to use information disclosed  
12 pursuant to this section only to protect an animal at risk.

13 (2) Except as authorized under paragraph (1) or any other  
14 provision of law, use of any information that is disclosed pursuant  
15 to this section for purposes relating to any of the following is  
16 prohibited:

17 (A) Health insurance.

18 (B) Insurance.

19 (C) Loans.

20 (D) Credit.

21 (E) Employment.

22 (F) Education, scholarships, or fellowships.

23 (G) Housing or accommodations.

24 (H) Benefits, privileges, or services provided by any business  
25 establishment.

26 (3) This section shall not affect authorized access to, or use of,  
27 information pursuant to, among other provisions, Sections 11105  
28 and 11105.3, Section 8808 of the Family Code, Section 14409.2  
29 of the Financial Code, Sections 1522.01 and 1596.871 of the  
30 Health and Safety Code, and Section 432.7 of the Labor Code.

31 (4) (A) Any use of information disclosed pursuant to this section  
32 for purposes other than those provided by paragraph (1) or in  
33 violation of paragraph (2) shall make the user liable for the actual  
34 damages, and any amount that may be determined by a jury or a  
35 court sitting without a jury, not exceeding three times the amount  
36 of actual damage, and not less than two hundred fifty dollars  
37 (\$250), and attorney's fees, exemplary damages, or a civil penalty  
38 not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

39 (B) Whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that any  
40 person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of

1 *misuse of the information available via an internet website*  
2 *established pursuant to this section in violation of paragraph (2),*  
3 *the Attorney General, any district attorney, or city attorney, or*  
4 *any person aggrieved by the misuse is authorized to bring a civil*  
5 *action in the appropriate court requesting preventive relief,*  
6 *including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction,*  
7 *restraining order, or other order against the person or group of*  
8 *persons responsible for the pattern or practice of misuse. The*  
9 *foregoing remedies shall be independent of any other remedies or*  
10 *procedures that may be available to an aggrieved party under*  
11 *other provisions of law, including Part 2 (commencing with Section*  
12 *43) of Division 1 of the Civil Code.*

13 *(j) The public notification provisions of this section are*  
14 *applicable to every person described in this section who is*  
15 *convicted on or after January 1, 2027.*

16 *(k) A designated law enforcement entity and its employees shall*  
17 *be immune from liability for good faith conduct under this section.*

18 *(l) Any person who is relieved of the duty to register pursuant*  
19 *to subdivision (k) of Section 600.9 shall be removed from the*  
20 *internet website.*

21 *(m) The Attorney General, in collaboration with local law*  
22 *enforcement and others knowledgeable about animal abuse*  
23 *offenders, shall develop strategies to assist members of the public*  
24 *in understanding and using publicly available information about*  
25 *registered animal abuse offenders to further public safety. These*  
26 *strategies may include, but are not limited to, a hotline for*  
27 *community inquiries, neighborhood and business guidelines for*  
28 *how to respond to information posted on this internet website, and*  
29 *any other resource that promotes public education about these*  
30 *offenders.*

31 *SEC. 3. Section 600.11 is added to the Penal Code, to read:*

32 *600.11. (a) Any person convicted of an offense specified in*  
33 *subdivision (a) of Section 600.9 shall, in addition to any other*  
34 *penalty or fine imposed, be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars*  
35 *(\$500) for each felony conviction.*

36 *(b) Notwithstanding Section 1463.001, fines collected pursuant*  
37 *to subdivision (a) shall be deposited in the Animal Protection*  
38 *Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury. Moneys in*  
39 *the fund shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,*  
40 *and shall be expended for the following purposes:*

1 (1) *By the Department of Justice for creating, administering,*  
2 *and updating the internet website pursuant to Section 600.10.*

3 (2) *By local governments for spay and neuter programs.*

4 (3) *No more than 3 percent of the revenue deposited in the fund*  
5 *may be used for reimbursement of costs of administration,*  
6 *collection, enforcement, and auditing requirements associated*  
7 *with this section and Section 600.10.*

8 *SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*  
9 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain*  
10 *costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district*  
11 *because, in that regard, this act creates a new crime or infraction,*  
12 *eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime*  
13 *or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the*  
14 *Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the*  
15 *meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*  
16 *Constitution.*

17 *However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that*  
18 *this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement*  
19 *to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*  
20 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*  
21 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

22 ~~SECTION 1. Section 1 of the Government Code is amended~~  
23 ~~to read:~~

24 ~~1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the~~  
25 ~~Government Code.~~