

State bill meets ACADA approval

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A bill going through the General Assembly right now meets the approval of ACADA director Susie Smith. ACADA, Avery Citizens Against Domestic Abuse, is a referral agency that helps local families affected by domestic violence by providing shelter and other resources.

The bill is of particular relevance to Smith because it would make it easier for a domestic violence victim to change her name. More and more women, she says, are getting into situations where changing their identity is one of their only options.

The bill would also ensure more information is provided to applicants of protective orders—information about legal aid, victims' compensation and other services. The bill coasted through the House last week. Its next stop is the Sent for a concurrence motion.