
HOUSE BILL 2894

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Talcott, Johanson, Sheahan, Moak, Padden, Tate, Casada, Chappell, Van Luven, Silver, B. Thomas, Reams, McMorris, Campbell, Foreman, Roland, Sehlin, Carlson, Fuhrman, Cothorn, Cooke, Dorn, R. Meyers, Edmondson, Wood, Brough, Sheldon, Hansen, L. Thomas, Stevens, Backlund, Finkbeiner and Dyer

Read first time 01/31/94. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting from public disclosure information
2 regarding lawful firearms sellers and purchasers; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 42.17.310; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.310 and 1993 c 360 s 2, 1993 c 320 s 9, and 1993
6 c 280 s 35 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The following are exempt from public inspection and copying:

8 (a) Personal information in any files maintained for students in
9 public schools, patients or clients of public institutions or public
10 health agencies, or welfare recipients.

11 (b) Personal information in files maintained for employees,
12 appointees, or elected officials of any public agency to the extent
13 that disclosure would violate their right to privacy.

14 (c) Information required of any taxpayer in connection with the
15 assessment or collection of any tax if the disclosure of the
16 information to other persons would (i) be prohibited to such persons by
17 RCW 82.32.330 or (ii) violate the taxpayer's right to privacy or result
18 in unfair competitive disadvantage to the taxpayer.

1 (d) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative
2 records compiled by investigative, law enforcement, and penology
3 agencies, and state agencies vested with the responsibility to
4 discipline members of any profession, the nondisclosure of which is
5 essential to effective law enforcement or for the protection of any
6 person's right to privacy.

7 (e) Information revealing the identity of persons who are witnesses
8 to or victims of crime or who file complaints with investigative, law
9 enforcement, or penology agencies, other than the public disclosure
10 commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical
11 safety, or property. If at the time a complaint is filed the
12 complainant, victim or witness indicates a desire for disclosure or
13 nondisclosure, such desire shall govern. However, all complaints filed
14 with the public disclosure commission about any elected official or
15 candidate for public office must be made in writing and signed by the
16 complainant under oath.

17 (f) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used
18 to administer a license, employment, or academic examination.

19 (g) Except as provided by chapter 8.26 RCW, the contents of real
20 estate appraisals, made for or by any agency relative to the
21 acquisition or sale of property, until the project or prospective sale
22 is abandoned or until such time as all of the property has been
23 acquired or the property to which the sale appraisal relates is sold,
24 but in no event shall disclosure be denied for more than three years
25 after the appraisal.

26 (h) Valuable formulae, designs, drawings, and research data
27 obtained by any agency within five years of the request for disclosure
28 when disclosure would produce private gain and public loss.

29 (i) Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency
30 memorandums in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated or
31 recommended except that a specific record shall not be exempt when
32 publicly cited by an agency in connection with any agency action.

33 (j) Records which are relevant to a controversy to which an agency
34 is a party but which records would not be available to another party
35 under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the
36 superior courts.

37 (k) Records, maps, or other information identifying the location of
38 archaeological sites in order to avoid the looting or depredation of
39 such sites.

1 (l) Any library record, the primary purpose of which is to maintain
2 control of library materials, or to gain access to information, which
3 discloses or could be used to disclose the identity of a library user.

4 (m) Financial information supplied by or on behalf of a person,
5 firm, or corporation for the purpose of qualifying to submit a bid or
6 proposal for (i) a ferry system construction or repair contract as
7 required by RCW 47.60.680 through 47.60.750 or (ii) highway
8 construction or improvement as required by RCW 47.28.070.

9 (n) Railroad company contracts filed prior to July 28, 1991, with
10 the utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.34.070, except
11 that the summaries of the contracts are open to public inspection and
12 copying as otherwise provided by this chapter.

13 (o) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
14 private persons pertaining to export services provided pursuant to
15 chapter 43.163 RCW and chapter 53.31 RCW.

16 (p) Financial disclosures filed by private vocational schools under
17 chapter 28C.10 RCW.

18 (q) Records filed with the utilities and transportation commission
19 or attorney general under RCW 80.04.095 that a court has determined are
20 confidential under RCW 80.04.095.

21 (r) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
22 businesses during application for loans or program services provided by
23 chapters 43.163, 43.160, 43.330, and 43.168 RCW.

24 (s) Membership lists or lists of members or owners of interests of
25 units in timeshare projects, subdivisions, camping resorts,
26 condominiums, land developments, or common-interest communities
27 affiliated with such projects, regulated by the department of
28 licensing, in the files or possession of the department.

29 (t) All applications for public employment, including the names of
30 applicants, resumes, and other related materials submitted with respect
31 to an applicant.

32 (u) The residential addresses and residential telephone numbers of
33 employees or volunteers of a public agency which are held by the agency
34 in personnel records, employment or volunteer rosters, or mailing lists
35 of employees or volunteers.

36 (v) The residential addresses and residential telephone numbers of
37 the customers of a public utility contained in the records or lists
38 held by the public utility of which they are customers.

1 (w)(i) The federal social security number of individuals governed
2 under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in the files of the department of
3 health, except this exemption does not apply to requests made directly
4 to the department from federal, state, and local agencies of
5 government, and national and state licensing, credentialing,
6 investigatory, disciplinary, and examination organizations; (ii) the
7 current residential address and current residential telephone number of
8 a health care provider governed under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in
9 the files of the department, if the provider requests that this
10 information be withheld from public inspection and copying, and
11 provides to the department an accurate alternate or business address
12 and business telephone number. On or after January 1, 1995, the
13 current residential address and residential telephone number of a
14 health care provider governed under RCW 18.130.140 maintained in the
15 files of the department shall automatically be withheld from public
16 inspection and copying if the provider has provided the department with
17 an accurate alternative or business address and telephone number.

18 (x) Information obtained by the board of pharmacy as provided in
19 RCW 69.45.090.

20 (y) Information obtained by the board of pharmacy or the department
21 of health and its representatives as provided in RCW 69.41.044,
22 69.41.280, and 18.64.420.

23 (z) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and
24 any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a
25 business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking
26 certification under chapter 31.24 RCW.

27 (aa) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state
28 investment board by any person when the information relates to the
29 investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure
30 would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers
31 of this information.

32 (bb) Financial and valuable trade information under RCW 51.36.120.

33 (cc) Client records maintained by an agency that is a domestic
34 violence program as defined in RCW 70.123.020 or a rape crisis center
35 as defined in RCW 70.125.030.

36 (dd) Information that identifies a person who, while an agency
37 employee: (i) Seeks advice, under an informal process established by
38 the employing agency, in order to ascertain his or her rights in
39 connection with a possible unfair practice under chapter 49.60 RCW

1 against the person; and (ii) requests his or her identity or any
2 identifying information not be disclosed.

3 (ee) Business related information protected from public inspection
4 and copying under RCW 15.86.110.

5 (ff) Information and records compiled by a state or local agency
6 regarding the application or issuance of a concealed weapons permit or
7 firearm dealer license, or regarding the purchase or sale of a firearm.
8 Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a law enforcement agency from
9 inspecting or copying information or records essential to a criminal
10 investigation.

11 (2) Except for information described in subsection (1)(c)(i) of
12 this section and confidential income data exempted from public
13 inspection pursuant to RCW 84.40.020, the exemptions of this section
14 are inapplicable to the extent that information, the disclosure of
15 which would violate personal privacy or vital governmental interests,
16 can be deleted from the specific records sought. No exemption may be
17 construed to permit the nondisclosure of statistical information not
18 descriptive of any readily identifiable person or persons.

19 (3) Inspection or copying of any specific records exempt under the
20 provisions of this section may be permitted if the superior court in
21 the county in which the record is maintained finds, after a hearing
22 with notice thereof to every person in interest and the agency, that
23 the exemption of such records is clearly unnecessary to protect any
24 individual's right of privacy or any vital governmental function.

25 (4) Agency responses refusing, in whole or in part, inspection of
26 any public record shall include a statement of the specific exemption
27 authorizing the withholding of the record (or part) and a brief
28 explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1994.

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