

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1505

As of February 16, 1998

Title: An act relating to exemptions from public disclosure.

Brief Description: Protecting privacy of law enforcement personnel.

Sponsors: House Committee on Government Administration (originally sponsored by Representatives Cairnes, O'Brien, Robertson, Delvin, Scott, McDonald, L. Thomas, Costa, Linville, Mitchell, Schoesler, Mielke, Thompson, Carrell, Conway and Dunn).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 3/27/97, 4/4/97 [DPA].
Transportation: 4/7/97; 2/18/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Paul Neal (786-7315)

Background: Each state and local agency is required to make all public records available for public inspection and copying unless the record is exempt from disclosure. The Legislature has enacted a number of such exemptions, including residential addresses and phone numbers of employees or volunteers of a public agency which are held by the public agency; and the residential addresses, phone numbers, and social security numbers of health care providers maintained by the Department of Health.

There is no express exemption provided for the home addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, or photos of active or former law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel, personnel of the Department of Social and Health Services with certain investigative responsibilities, or personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments involved with revenue collection and enforcement or enforcement of child support. There is also no exemption provided for records that disclose similar types of information for the spouses and children of such personnel.

Summary of Bill: The home addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, and photos of active or former state and local law enforcement personnel, including correctional and correctional probation officers, are exempt from public inspection and copying. These same records are also exempt from public disclosure and copying when they relate to personnel of the Department of Social and Health Services whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities; and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement.

The home addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, photos, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel are also exempt from public disclosure and copying. In addition, the names and locations of schools and day care

facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from public disclosure and copying.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill provides for the protection of the people who protect us from criminals. It is difficult to implement, however.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Walt Fahrer, Dept. of Licensing (pro w/concerns); Mike Patrick, WSCP (pro); Rowland Thompson, Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington (concerns).