

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1245

Exempting certain financial and proprietary information from public disclosure.

Brief title

Hearing Date: 1/27/99

Reps Morrison and Dunn

Sponsor(s)

Staff: Steve Andin

State Government Committee

Phone: 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

The open public records law was approved by state voters in 1972 as part of Initiative Measure No. 276. All public records of state agencies and local governments are open to public inspection and copying, unless law expressly excludes the public records from public inspection and copying. This disclosure requirement is liberally construed and any exception is narrowly construed.

Among the express exclusions the following public records are not available for inspection and copying: (1) the public's personal information in the disclosure which would violate the right to privacy; (2) certain taxpayer information; (3) certain financial and commercial information supplied by individuals applying for various programs; and (4) residential addresses and residential telephone numbers of public utility customers.

In a few instances information in public records is provided more extensive protection from public disclosure by being declared confidential and prohibited from being disclosed. For example, financial or proprietary information supplied by entrepreneurs to the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development may not be made available to the public.

SUMMARY:

The existing requirement that financial or proprietary information supplied to the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development shall not be made available to the public is expanded to include the name of a business and the potential date for its relocation. Information supplied to the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development may not be made available to the public until a decision has been made to acquire or not acquire the site.

FISCANOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment session which it passed.