
HOUSE BILL 2138

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, Nixon, Miloscia, O'Brien, McDermott,
Lovick, Hunt, Clements and Ericks

Read first time 02/21/2005. Referred to Committee on State
Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to limiting access to public records by persons
2 convicted of a gross misdemeanor or a felony; and reenacting and
3 amending RCW 42.17.310.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.310 and 2003 c 277 s 3 and 2003 c 124 s 1 are
6 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 84.08.210, 82.32.330, 84.40.020, or 84.40.340 or (ii) violate the
18 taxpayer's right to privacy or result in unfair competitive
19 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, computer source code or
27 object code, and research data obtained by any agency within five years
28 of the request for disclosure when disclosure would produce private
29 gain and public loss.

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

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

1 (k) Records, maps, or other information identifying the location of
2 archaeological sites in order to avoid the looting or depredation of
3 such sites.

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

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

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

16 (o) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
17 private persons pertaining to export services provided pursuant to
18 chapter 43.163 RCW and chapter 53.31 RCW, and by persons pertaining to
19 export projects pursuant to RCW 43.23.035.

20 (p) Financial disclosures filed by private vocational schools under
21 chapters 28B.85 and 28C.10 RCW.

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

25 (r) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
26 businesses or individuals during application for loans or program
27 services provided by chapters 43.163, 43.160, 43.330, and 43.168 RCW,
28 or during application for economic development loans or program
29 services provided by any local agency.

30 (s) Membership lists or lists of members or owners of interests of
31 units in timeshare projects, subdivisions, camping resorts,
32 condominiums, land developments, or common-interest communities
33 affiliated with such projects, regulated by the department of
34 licensing, in the files or possession of the department.

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

1 (u) The residential addresses or residential telephone numbers of
2 employees or volunteers of a public agency which are held by any public
3 agency in personnel records, public employment related records, or
4 volunteer rosters, or are included in any mailing list of employees or
5 volunteers of any public agency.

6 (v) The residential addresses and residential telephone numbers of
7 the customers of a public utility contained in the records or lists
8 held by the public utility of which they are customers, except that
9 this information may be released to the division of child support or
10 the agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another
11 state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act, for the
12 establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order.

13 (w)(i) The federal social security number of individuals governed
14 under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in the files of the department of
15 health, except this exemption does not apply to requests made directly
16 to the department from federal, state, and local agencies of
17 government, and national and state licensing, credentialing,
18 investigatory, disciplinary, and examination organizations; (ii) the
19 current residential address and current residential telephone number of
20 a health care provider governed under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in
21 the files of the department, if the provider requests that this
22 information be withheld from public inspection and copying, and
23 provides to the department an accurate alternate or business address
24 and business telephone number. On or after January 1, 1995, the
25 current residential address and residential telephone number of a
26 health care provider governed under RCW 18.130.040 maintained in the
27 files of the department shall automatically be withheld from public
28 inspection and copying unless the provider specifically requests the
29 information be released, and except as provided for under RCW
30 42.17.260(9).

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

33 (y) Information obtained by the board of pharmacy or the department
34 of health and its representatives as provided in RCW 69.41.044,
35 69.41.280, and 18.64.420.

36 (z) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and
37 any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a

1 business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking
2 certification under chapter 31.24 RCW.

3 (aa) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state
4 investment board by any person when the information relates to the
5 investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure
6 would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers
7 of this information.

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

9 (cc) Client records maintained by an agency that is a domestic
10 violence program as defined in RCW 70.123.020 or 70.123.075 or a rape
11 crisis center as defined in RCW 70.125.030.

12 (dd) Information that identifies a person who, while an agency
13 employee: (i) Seeks advice, under an informal process established by
14 the employing agency, in order to ascertain his or her rights in
15 connection with a possible unfair practice under chapter 49.60 RCW
16 against the person; and (ii) requests his or her identity or any
17 identifying information not be disclosed.

18 (ee) Investigative records compiled by an employing agency
19 conducting a current investigation of a possible unfair practice under
20 chapter 49.60 RCW or of a possible violation of other federal, state,
21 or local laws prohibiting discrimination in employment.

22 (ff) Business related information protected from public inspection
23 and copying under RCW 15.86.110.

24 (gg) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research
25 information and data submitted to or obtained by the clean Washington
26 center in applications for, or delivery of, program services under
27 chapter 70.95H RCW.

28 (hh) Information and documents created specifically for, and
29 collected and maintained by a quality improvement committee pursuant to
30 RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200, or by a peer review committee under RCW
31 4.24.250, regardless of which agency is in possession of the
32 information and documents.

33 (ii) Personal information in files maintained in a data base
34 created under RCW 43.07.360.

35 (jj) Financial and commercial information requested by the public
36 stadium authority from any person or organization that leases or uses
37 the stadium and exhibition center as defined in RCW 36.102.010.

1 (kk) Names of individuals residing in emergency or transitional
2 housing that are furnished to the department of revenue or a county
3 assessor in order to substantiate a claim for property tax exemption
4 under RCW 84.36.043.

5 (ll) The names, residential addresses, residential telephone
6 numbers, and other individually identifiable records held by an agency
7 in relation to a vanpool, carpool, or other ride-sharing program or
8 service. However, these records may be disclosed to other persons who
9 apply for ride-matching services and who need that information in order
10 to identify potential riders or drivers with whom to share rides.

11 (mm) The personally identifying information of current or former
12 participants or applicants in a paratransit or other transit service
13 operated for the benefit of persons with disabilities or elderly
14 persons.

15 (nn) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire
16 and use transit passes and other fare payment media including, but not
17 limited to, stored value smart cards and magnetic strip cards, except
18 that an agency may disclose this information to a person, employer,
19 educational institution, or other entity that is responsible, in whole
20 or in part, for payment of the cost of acquiring or using a transit
21 pass or other fare payment media, or to the news media when reporting
22 on public transportation or public safety. This information may also
23 be disclosed at the agency's discretion to governmental agencies or
24 groups concerned with public transportation or public safety.

25 (oo) Proprietary financial and commercial information that the
26 submitting entity, with review by the department of health,
27 specifically identifies at the time it is submitted and that is
28 provided to or obtained by the department of health in connection with
29 an application for, or the supervision of, an antitrust exemption
30 sought by the submitting entity under RCW 43.72.310. If a request for
31 such information is received, the submitting entity must be notified of
32 the request. Within ten business days of receipt of the notice, the
33 submitting entity shall provide a written statement of the continuing
34 need for confidentiality, which shall be provided to the requester.
35 Upon receipt of such notice, the department of health shall continue to
36 treat information designated under this section as exempt from
37 disclosure. If the requester initiates an action to compel disclosure

1 under this chapter, the submitting entity must be joined as a party to
2 demonstrate the continuing need for confidentiality.

3 (pp) Records maintained by the board of industrial insurance
4 appeals that are related to appeals of crime victims' compensation
5 claims filed with the board under RCW 7.68.110.

6 (qq) Financial and commercial information supplied by or on behalf
7 of a person, firm, corporation, or entity under chapter 28B.95 RCW
8 relating to the purchase or sale of tuition units and contracts for the
9 purchase of multiple tuition units.

10 (rr) Any records of investigative reports prepared by any state,
11 county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency pertaining to sex
12 offenses contained in chapter 9A.44 RCW or sexually violent offenses as
13 defined in RCW 71.09.020, which have been transferred to the Washington
14 association of sheriffs and police chiefs for permanent electronic
15 retention and retrieval pursuant to RCW 40.14.070(2)(b).

16 (ss) Credit card numbers, debit card numbers, electronic check
17 numbers, card expiration dates, or bank or other financial account
18 numbers, except when disclosure is expressly required by or governed by
19 other law.

20 (tt) Financial information, including but not limited to account
21 numbers and values, and other identification numbers supplied by or on
22 behalf of a person, firm, corporation, limited liability company,
23 partnership, or other entity related to an application for a liquor
24 license, gambling license, or lottery retail license.

25 (uu) Records maintained by the employment security department and
26 subject to chapter 50.13 RCW if provided to another individual or
27 organization for operational, research, or evaluation purposes.

28 (vv) Individually identifiable information received by the work
29 force training and education coordinating board for research or
30 evaluation purposes.

31 (ww) Those portions of records assembled, prepared, or maintained
32 to prevent, mitigate, or respond to criminal terrorist acts, which are
33 acts that significantly disrupt the conduct of government or of the
34 general civilian population of the state or the United States and that
35 manifest an extreme indifference to human life, the public disclosure
36 of which would have a substantial likelihood of threatening public
37 safety, consisting of:

1 (i) Specific and unique vulnerability assessments or specific and
2 unique response or deployment plans, including compiled underlying data
3 collected in preparation of or essential to the assessments, or to the
4 response or deployment plans; and

5 (ii) Records not subject to public disclosure under federal law
6 that are shared by federal or international agencies, and information
7 prepared from national security briefings provided to state or local
8 government officials related to domestic preparedness for acts of
9 terrorism.

10 (xx) Commercial fishing catch data from logbooks required to be
11 provided to the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.12.047,
12 when the data identifies specific catch location, timing, or
13 methodology and the release of which would result in unfair competitive
14 disadvantage to the commercial fisher providing the catch data.
15 However, this information may be released to government agencies
16 concerned with the management of fish and wildlife resources.

17 (yy) Sensitive wildlife data obtained by the department of fish and
18 wildlife. However, sensitive wildlife data may be released to
19 government agencies concerned with the management of fish and wildlife
20 resources. Sensitive wildlife data includes:

21 (i) The nesting sites or specific locations of endangered species
22 designated under RCW 77.12.020, or threatened or sensitive species
23 classified by rule of the department of fish and wildlife;

24 (ii) Radio frequencies used in, or locational data generated by,
25 telemetry studies; or

26 (iii) Other location data that could compromise the viability of a
27 specific fish or wildlife population, and where at least one of the
28 following criteria are met:

29 (A) The species has a known commercial or black market value;

30 (B) There is a history of malicious take of that species; or

31 (C) There is a known demand to visit, take, or disturb, and the
32 species behavior or ecology renders it especially vulnerable or the
33 species has an extremely limited distribution and concentration.

34 (zz) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire
35 recreational licenses under RCW 77.32.010 or commercial licenses under
36 chapter 77.65 or 77.70 RCW, except name, address of contact used by the
37 department, and type of license, endorsement, or tag. However, the

1 department of fish and wildlife may disclose personally identifying
2 information to:

3 (i) Government agencies concerned with the management of fish and
4 wildlife resources;

5 (ii) The department of social and health services, child support
6 division, and to the department of licensing in order to implement RCW
7 77.32.014 and 46.20.291; and

8 (iii) Law enforcement agencies for the purpose of firearm
9 possession enforcement under RCW 9.41.040.

10 (aaa)(i) Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed forces of the
11 United States filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1,
12 2002, that have not been commingled with other recorded documents.
13 These records will be available only to the veteran, the veteran's next
14 of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative
15 or executor, a person holding that veteran's general power of attorney,
16 or to anyone else designated in writing by that veteran to receive the
17 records.

18 (ii) Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed forces of the
19 United States filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1,
20 2002, that have been commingled with other records, if the veteran has
21 recorded a "request for exemption from public disclosure of discharge
22 papers" with the county auditor. If such a request has been recorded,
23 these records may be released only to the veteran filing the papers,
24 the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed
25 personal representative or executor, a person holding the veteran's
26 general power of attorney, or anyone else designated in writing by the
27 veteran to receive the records.

28 (iii) Discharge papers of a veteran filed at the office of the
29 county auditor after June 30, 2002, are not public records, but will be
30 available only to the veteran, the veteran's next of kin, a deceased
31 veteran's properly appointed personal representative or executor, a
32 person holding the veteran's general power of attorney, or anyone else
33 designated in writing by the veteran to receive the records.

34 (iv) For the purposes of this subsection (1)(aaa), next of kin of
35 deceased veterans have the same rights to full access to the record.
36 Next of kin are the veteran's widow or widower who has not remarried,
37 son, daughter, father, mother, brother, and sister.

1 (bbb) Those portions of records containing specific and unique
2 vulnerability assessments or specific and unique emergency and escape
3 response plans at a city, county, or state adult or juvenile
4 correctional facility, the public disclosure of which would have a
5 substantial likelihood of threatening the security of a city, county,
6 or state adult or juvenile correctional facility or any individual's
7 safety.

8 (ccc) Information compiled by school districts or schools in the
9 development of their comprehensive safe school plans pursuant to RCW
10 28A.320.125, to the extent that they identify specific vulnerabilities
11 of school districts and each individual school.

12 (ddd) Information regarding the infrastructure and security of
13 computer and telecommunications networks, consisting of security
14 passwords, security access codes and programs, access codes for secure
15 software applications, security and service recovery plans, security
16 risk assessments, and security test results to the extent that they
17 identify specific system vulnerabilities.

18 (eee) Information obtained and exempted or withheld from public
19 inspection by the health care authority under RCW 41.05.026, whether
20 retained by the authority, transferred to another state purchased
21 health care program by the authority, or transferred by the authority
22 to a technical review committee created to facilitate the development,
23 acquisition, or implementation of state purchased health care under
24 chapter 41.05 RCW.

25 (fff) Proprietary data, trade secrets, or other information that
26 relates to: (i) A vendor's unique methods of conducting business; (ii)
27 data unique to the product or services of the vendor; or (iii)
28 determining prices or rates to be charged for services, submitted by
29 any vendor to the department of social and health services for purposes
30 of the development, acquisition, or implementation of state purchased
31 health care as defined in RCW 41.05.011.

32 (ggg) A public record requested by a person convicted of a gross
33 misdemeanor or a felony who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a
34 federal, state, or county correctional facility in this state or any
35 other state, or who is under the supervision of the department of
36 corrections in the community, unless denial of the record would
37 interfere with the person's right to mount a criminal defense under the
38 federal and state constitutions.

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

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

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

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If any provision of this act or its
20 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
21 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
22 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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