**1956-S.E AMS SGE S4750.1 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**ESHB 1956** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government & Elections

**ADOPTED 03/02/2022**

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 42.56 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The following information or records created or maintained by the department of corrections is exempt from public inspection and copying under this chapter:

(a) Body scanner images from any system designed to detect and visualize contraband hidden in body cavities or beneath clothing, including backscatter X-ray, millimeter wave, and transmission X-ray systems;

(b) The following information and records created or maintained pursuant to the federal prison rape elimination act, 34 U.S.C. Sec. 30301 et seq., and its regulations:

(i) Risk assessments, risk indicators, and monitoring plans;

(ii) Reports of sexual abuse or sexual harassment, as defined under 28 C.F.R. 115.6;

(iii) Records of open prison rape elimination act investigations; and

(iv) The identities of individuals other than department of corrections staff, contractors, and volunteers, in closed prison rape elimination act investigation reports and related investigative materials; however, the identity of an accused individual is not exempt if the allegation is determined to have been substantiated; and

(c) Health information in records other than an incarcerated individual's medical, mental health, or dental files.

(2) The exemption of information or records described under subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section does not apply to requests by the incarcerated individual who is the subject of the information, a requestor with the written permission of the incarcerated individual who is the subject of the information, or a personal representative of an incarcerated individual who is the subject of the information. In response to such requests, the department of corrections may withhold information revealing the identity of other incarcerated individuals.

(3) An agency refusing, in whole or in part, inspection of a public record containing information listed in subsection (1)(c) of this section may cite to subsection (1)(c) of this section, without further explanation, when providing the brief explanation required by RCW 42.56.210(3), and shall also identify the number of pages withheld, if any pages are withheld in their entirety.

(4) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Health information" means any information that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of an incarcerated individual and directly relates to the following: Medical, mental health, or dental diagnoses or conditions; medical, mental health, or dental services, treatments, or procedures, including requests for or complaints about such services, treatments, or procedures; transgender, intersex, nonbinary, or gender nonconforming status; sexual orientation; genital anatomy; or gender-affirming care or accommodations other than an incarcerated individual's preferred name, pronouns, and gender marker.

(b) The following information is not "health information" under this section: (i) Health care information subject to RCW 42.56.360(2) and chapter 70.02 RCW; and (ii) information related to injuries, other than injuries related to medical procedures or genital anatomy, contained in incident reports, infraction records, or use of force reports, prepared by department of corrections staff other than health care providers.

(c) "Incarcerated individual" has the same meaning as "inmate" under RCW 72.09.015 and includes currently or formerly incarcerated individuals.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act is remedial, curative, and retroactive, and the exemptions in section 1 of this act apply retroactively to any public records request made prior to the effective date of this section for which disclosure of records has not already occurred.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately."

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On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "safety;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter 42.56 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency."

EFFECT: (1) Specifies categories of records created or maintained pursuant to the Prison Rape Elimination Act which are exempt from public disclosure requirements.

(2) Specifies information relating to medical, mental health, or dental services as health information exempt from public disclosure requirements under the bill.

(3) Removes references to programming and information related to death, coma, or persistent vegetative state from exceptions to the definition of health information.