
SENATE BILL 5550

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Van De Wege, Mullet, Wagoner, and L. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to applying the public records act to all courts
2 and offices within the judicial branch; and amending RCW 42.56.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.56.010 and 2017 c 303 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.
9 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,
10 bureau, board, commission, court, office within the judicial branch,
11 or other state agency. "Local agency" includes every county, city,
12 town, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or special
13 purpose district, or any office, department, division, bureau, board,
14 commission, or agency thereof, court, office within the judicial
15 branch, or other local public agency.

16 (2) "Person in interest" means the person who is the subject of a
17 record or any representative designated by that person, except that
18 if that person is under a legal disability, "person in interest"
19 means and includes the parent or duly appointed legal representative.

20 (3) "Public record" includes any writing containing information
21 relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any

1 governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or
2 retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or
3 characteristics, including court case files and judicial records, but
4 not chambers records. For the office of the secretary of the senate
5 and the office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives,
6 public records means legislative records as defined in RCW 40.14.100
7 and also means the following: All budget and financial records;
8 personnel leave, travel, and payroll records; records of legislative
9 sessions; reports submitted to the legislature; and any other record
10 designated a public record by any official action of the senate or
11 the house of representatives. This definition does not include
12 records that are not otherwise required to be retained by the agency
13 and are held by volunteers who:

14 (a) Do not serve in an administrative capacity;

15 (b) Have not been appointed by the agency to an agency board,
16 commission, or internship; and

17 (c) Do not have a supervisory role or delegated agency authority.

18 (4) "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing,
19 photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any
20 form of communication or representation including, but not limited
21 to, letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combination
22 thereof, and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic
23 films and prints, motion picture, film and video recordings, magnetic
24 or punched cards, discs, drums, diskettes, sound recordings, and
25 other documents including existing data compilations from which
26 information may be obtained or translated.

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