
HOUSE BILL 1964

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Fosse, Farivar, Parshley, Kloba, Gregerson, Ramel, Ormsby, Scott, and Hill

Read first time 02/13/25. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to persons requesting disclosure of lists of
2 individuals under the public records act; and amending RCW 42.56.080.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.56.080 and 2023 c 67 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1)(a) A public records request must be for identifiable records.
7 A request for all or substantially all records prepared, owned, used,
8 or retained by an agency is not a valid request for identifiable
9 records under this chapter, provided that a request for all records
10 regarding a particular topic or containing a particular keyword or
11 name shall not be considered a request for all of an agency's
12 records.

13 (b) A request for a recording required to be maintained by a
14 school district board of directors under RCW 42.30.035(2) shall only
15 be considered a valid request for an identifiable record when the
16 date of the recording, or a range of dates, is specified in the
17 request. When searching for and providing identifiable recordings, no
18 search criteria except date must be considered by the school
19 district.

20 (2)(a) Public records shall be available for inspection and
21 copying, and agencies shall, upon request for identifiable public

1 records, make them promptly available to any person including, if
2 applicable, on a partial or installment basis as records that are
3 part of a larger set of requested records are assembled or made ready
4 for inspection or disclosure. Agencies shall not deny a request for
5 identifiable public records solely on the basis that the request is
6 overbroad. Agencies shall not distinguish among persons requesting
7 records, and such persons shall not be required to provide
8 information as to the purpose for the request except to establish
9 whether inspection and copying would violate RCW 42.56.070(8) or
10 42.56.240(14), or other statute which exempts or prohibits disclosure
11 of specific information or records to certain persons. Agency
12 facilities shall be made available to any person for the copying of
13 public records except when and to the extent that this would
14 unreasonably disrupt the operations of the agency. Agencies shall
15 honor requests received in person during an agency's normal office
16 hours, or by mail or email, for identifiable public records unless
17 exempted by provisions of this chapter. No official format is
18 required for making a records request; however, agencies may
19 recommend that requestors submit requests using an agency provided
20 form or web page.

21 (b) A person requesting a list of individuals must sign a
22 declaration of noncommercial purpose under penalty of perjury. The
23 person must, at a minimum, attest that the request for the list of
24 individuals is not for commercial purposes and state the purpose of
25 the request on the declaration. The office of the attorney general
26 shall provide a template declaration for use by agencies.

27 (3) An agency may deny a bot request that is one of multiple
28 requests from the requestor to the agency within a twenty-four hour
29 period, if the agency establishes that responding to the multiple
30 requests would cause excessive interference with other essential
31 functions of the agency. For purposes of this subsection, "bot
32 request" means a request for public records that an agency reasonably
33 believes was automatically generated by a computer program or script.

--- END ---