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HOUSE BILL 3054

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Ruderman, Lambert, Edwards and Rockefeller

Read first time 01/26/2000. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to public records; and reenacting and amending RCW  
2 42.17.310.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.310 and 1999 c 326 s 3, 1999 c 290 s 1, and 1999  
5 c 215 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6            (1) The following are exempt from public inspection and copying:

7            (a) Personal information in any files maintained for students in  
8 public schools, patients or clients of public institutions or public  
9 health agencies, or welfare recipients.

10           (b) Personal information in files maintained for employees,  
11 appointees, or elected officials of any public agency to the extent  
12 that disclosure would violate their right to privacy.

13           (c) Information required of any taxpayer in connection with the  
14 assessment or collection of any tax if the disclosure of the  
15 information to other persons would (i) be prohibited to such persons by  
16 RCW 84.08.210, 82.32.330, 84.40.020, or 84.40.340 or (ii) violate the  
17 taxpayer's right to privacy or result in unfair competitive  
18 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.

38 (u) The residential addresses and residential telephone numbers of  
39 employees or volunteers of a public agency which are held by ((the))

1 any public agency in personnel records, public employment related  
2 records, or volunteer rosters(~~(, or~~)) and mailing lists of employees or  
3 volunteers of any public agency.

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

11 (w)(i) The federal social security number of individuals governed  
12 under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in the files of the department of  
13 health, except this exemption does not apply to requests made directly  
14 to the department from federal, state, and local agencies of  
15 government, and national and state licensing, credentialing,  
16 investigatory, disciplinary, and examination organizations; (ii) the  
17 current residential address and current residential telephone number of  
18 a health care provider governed under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in  
19 the files of the department, if the provider requests that this  
20 information be withheld from public inspection and copying, and  
21 provides to the department an accurate alternate or business address  
22 and business telephone number. On or after January 1, 1995, the  
23 current residential address and residential telephone number of a  
24 health care provider governed under RCW (~~(18.130.140)~~) 18.130.040  
25 maintained in the files of the department shall automatically be  
26 withheld from public inspection and copying unless the provider  
27 specifically requests the information be released, and except as  
28 provided for under RCW 42.17.260(9).

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

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

34 (z) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and  
35 any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a  
36 business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking  
37 certification under chapter 31.24 RCW.

38 (aa) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state  
39 investment board by any person when the information relates to the

1 investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure  
2 would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers  
3 of this information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (hh) Information and documents created specifically for, and  
25 collected and maintained by a quality improvement committee pursuant to  
26 RCW 43.70.510, regardless of which agency is in possession of the  
27 information and documents.

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

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

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

37 (ll) The names, residential addresses, residential telephone  
38 numbers, and other individually identifiable records held by an agency  
39 in relation to a vanpool, carpool, or other ride-sharing program or

1 service. However, these records may be disclosed to other persons who  
2 apply for ride-matching services and who need that information in order  
3 to identify potential riders or drivers with whom to share rides.

4 (mm) The personally identifying information of current or former  
5 participants or applicants in a paratransit or other transit service  
6 operated for the benefit of persons with disabilities or elderly  
7 persons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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