
SENATE BILL 5718

State of Washington

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By Senators Winsley, Prentice, Roach, Fairley, Kastama, Fraser, Keiser, Kline, Shin, Kohl-Welles, Thibaudeau, Regala, B. Sheldon, Reardon, Brown, Hargrove, Franklin, Spanel, McAuliffe, Jacobsen, Haugen, Rasmussen, Doumit and Schmidt

Read first time 02/07/2003. Referred to Committee on Financial Services, Insurance & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting bank account, social security, and
2 credit card numbers from public disclosure; reenacting and amending RCW
3 42.17.310; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that crimes arising
6 from theft of consumer financial information have escalated, as
7 criminals obtain and use account and credit card information. Some
8 public records may contain some personal account, credit card, or other
9 financial information that was obtained by a state agency for
10 legitimate reasons. However, this information should not be accessible
11 to others, who can misuse it to commit fraud and identity theft.

12 In order to prevent financial fraud and identity theft crimes, the
13 legislature intends to exempt credit and debit card numbers, electronic
14 check numbers, card expiration dates, bank or other financial account
15 numbers, and federal social security numbers from public records
16 disclosure requirements, except in cases where such disclosure is
17 expressly required by law or governed by other law.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17.310 and 2002 c 335 s 1, 2002 c 224 s 2, 2002 c
2 205 s 4, and 2002 c 172 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as
3 follows:

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

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

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

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

17 (d) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative
18 records compiled by investigative, law enforcement, and penology
19 agencies, and state agencies vested with the responsibility to
20 discipline members of any profession, the nondisclosure of which is
21 essential to effective law enforcement or for the protection of any
22 person's right to privacy.

23 (e) Information revealing the identity of persons who are witnesses
24 to or victims of crime or who file complaints with investigative, law
25 enforcement, or penology agencies, other than the public disclosure
26 commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical
27 safety, or property. If at the time a complaint is filed the
28 complainant, victim or witness indicates a desire for disclosure or
29 nondisclosure, such desire shall govern. However, all complaints filed
30 with the public disclosure commission about any elected official or
31 candidate for public office must be made in writing and signed by the
32 complainant under oath.

33 (f) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used
34 to administer a license, employment, or academic examination.

35 (g) Except as provided by chapter 8.26 RCW, the contents of real
36 estate appraisals, made for or by any agency relative to the
37 acquisition or sale of property, until the project or prospective sale
38 is abandoned or until such time as all of the property has been

1 acquired or the property to which the sale appraisal relates is sold,
2 but in no event shall disclosure be denied for more than three years
3 after the appraisal.

4 (h) Valuable formulae, designs, drawings, computer source code or
5 object code, and research data obtained by any agency within five years
6 of the request for disclosure when disclosure would produce private
7 gain and public loss.

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

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

16 (k) Records, maps, or other information identifying the location of
17 archaeological sites in order to avoid the looting or depredation of
18 such sites.

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

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

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

31 (o) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
32 private persons pertaining to export services provided pursuant to
33 chapter 43.163 RCW and chapter 53.31 RCW, and by persons pertaining to
34 export projects pursuant to RCW 43.23.035.

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

37 (q) Records filed with the utilities and transportation commission

1 or attorney general under RCW 80.04.095 that a court has determined are
2 confidential under RCW 80.04.095.

3 (r) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
4 businesses or individuals during application for loans or program
5 services provided by chapters 43.163, 43.160, 43.330, and 43.168 RCW,
6 or during application for economic development loans or program
7 services provided by any local agency.

8 (s) Membership lists or lists of members or owners of interests of
9 units in timeshare projects, subdivisions, camping resorts,
10 condominiums, land developments, or common-interest communities
11 affiliated with such projects, regulated by the department of
12 licensing, in the files or possession of the department.

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

16 (u) The residential addresses or residential telephone numbers of
17 employees or volunteers of a public agency which are held by any public
18 agency in personnel records, public employment related records, or
19 volunteer rosters, or are included in any mailing list of employees or
20 volunteers of any public agency.

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

28 (w)(i) The federal social security number of individuals governed
29 under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in the files of the department of
30 health, except this exemption does not apply to requests made directly
31 to the department from federal, state, and local agencies of
32 government, and national and state licensing, credentialing,
33 investigatory, disciplinary, and examination organizations; (ii) the
34 current residential address and current residential telephone number of
35 a health care provider governed under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in
36 the files of the department, if the provider requests that this
37 information be withheld from public inspection and copying, and
38 provides to the department an accurate alternate or business address

1 and business telephone number. On or after January 1, 1995, the
2 current residential address and residential telephone number of a
3 health care provider governed under RCW 18.130.040 maintained in the
4 files of the department shall automatically be withheld from public
5 inspection and copying unless the provider specifically requests the
6 information be released, and except as provided for under RCW
7 42.17.260(9).

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

10 (y) Information obtained by the board of pharmacy or the department
11 of health and its representatives as provided in RCW 69.41.044,
12 69.41.280, and 18.64.420.

13 (z) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and
14 any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a
15 business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking
16 certification under chapter 31.24 RCW.

17 (aa) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state
18 investment board by any person when the information relates to the
19 investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure
20 would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers
21 of this information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (hh) Information and documents created specifically for, and
6 collected and maintained by a quality improvement committee pursuant to
7 RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200, or by a peer review committee under RCW
8 4.24.250, regardless of which agency is in possession of the
9 information and documents.

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

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

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

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

25 (mm) The personally identifying information of current or former
26 participants or applicants in a paratransit or other transit service
27 operated for the benefit of persons with disabilities or elderly
28 persons.

29 (nn) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire
30 and use transit passes and other fare payment media including, but not
31 limited to, stored value smart cards and magnetic strip cards, except
32 that an agency may disclose this information to a person, employer,
33 educational institution, or other entity that is responsible, in whole
34 or in part, for payment of the cost of acquiring or using a transit
35 pass or other fare payment media, or to the news media when reporting
36 on public transportation or public safety. This information may also
37 be disclosed at the agency's discretion to governmental agencies or
38 groups concerned with public transportation or public safety.

1 (oo) Proprietary financial and commercial information that the
2 submitting entity, with review by the department of health,
3 specifically identifies at the time it is submitted and that is
4 provided to or obtained by the department of health in connection with
5 an application for, or the supervision of, an antitrust exemption
6 sought by the submitting entity under RCW 43.72.310. If a request for
7 such information is received, the submitting entity must be notified of
8 the request. Within ten business days of receipt of the notice, the
9 submitting entity shall provide a written statement of the continuing
10 need for confidentiality, which shall be provided to the requester.
11 Upon receipt of such notice, the department of health shall continue to
12 treat information designated under this section as exempt from
13 disclosure. If the requester initiates an action to compel disclosure
14 under this chapter, the submitting entity must be joined as a party to
15 demonstrate the continuing need for confidentiality.

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

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

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

29 (ss) Credit card numbers, debit card numbers, electronic check
30 numbers, card expiration dates, ~~((or))~~ bank or other financial account
31 numbers ~~((supplied to an agency for the purpose of electronic transfer
32 of funds))~~, or federal social security numbers except when disclosure
33 is expressly required by or governed by other law, or when a request
34 for a document including a federal social security number is made by a
35 credit bureau or financial institution and disclosure is authorized by
36 other law.

37 (tt) Financial information, including but not limited to account
38 numbers and values, and other identification numbers supplied by or on

1 behalf of a person, firm, corporation, limited liability company,
2 partnership, or other entity related to an application for a liquor
3 license, gambling license, or lottery retail license.

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

7 (vv) Individually identifiable information received by the work
8 force training and education coordinating board for research or
9 evaluation purposes.

10 (ww) Those portions of records assembled, prepared, or maintained
11 to prevent, mitigate, or respond to criminal terrorist acts, which are
12 acts that significantly disrupt the conduct of government or of the
13 general civilian population of the state or the United States and that
14 manifest an extreme indifference to human life, the public disclosure
15 of which would have a substantial likelihood of threatening public
16 safety, consisting of:

17 (i) Specific and unique vulnerability assessments or specific and
18 unique response or deployment plans, including compiled underlying data
19 collected in preparation of or essential to the assessments, or to the
20 response or deployment plans; and

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

26 (xx) Commercial fishing catch data from logbooks required to be
27 provided to the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.12.047,
28 when the data identifies specific catch location, timing, or
29 methodology and the release of which would result in unfair competitive
30 disadvantage to the commercial fisher providing the catch data.
31 However, this information may be released to government agencies
32 concerned with the management of fish and wildlife resources.

33 (yy) Sensitive wildlife data obtained by the department of fish and
34 wildlife. However, sensitive wildlife data may be released to
35 government agencies concerned with the management of fish and wildlife
36 resources. Sensitive wildlife data includes:

37 (i) The nesting sites or specific locations of endangered species

1 designated under RCW 77.12.020, or threatened or sensitive species
2 classified by rule of the department of fish and wildlife;

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

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

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

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

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

13 (zz) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire
14 recreational licenses under RCW 77.32.010 or commercial licenses under
15 chapter 77.65 or 77.70 RCW, except name, address of contact used by the
16 department, and type of license, endorsement, or tag. However, the
17 department of fish and wildlife may disclose personally identifying
18 information to:

19 (i) Government agencies concerned with the management of fish and
20 wildlife resources;

21 (ii) The department of social and health services, child support
22 division, and to the department of licensing in order to implement RCW
23 77.32.014 and 46.20.291; and

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

26 (aaa)(i) Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed forces of the
27 United States filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1,
28 2002, that have not been commingled with other recorded documents.
29 These records will be available only to the veteran, the veteran's next
30 of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative
31 or executor, a person holding that veteran's general power of attorney,
32 or to anyone else designated in writing by that veteran to receive the
33 records.

34 (ii) Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed forces of the
35 United States filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1,
36 2002, that have been commingled with other records, if the veteran has
37 recorded a "request for exemption from public disclosure of discharge
38 papers" with the county auditor. If such a request has been recorded,

1 these records may be released only to the veteran filing the papers,
2 the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed
3 personal representative or executor, a person holding the veteran's
4 general power of attorney, or anyone else designated in writing by the
5 veteran to receive the records.

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

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

16 (bbb) Those portions of records containing specific and unique
17 vulnerability assessments or specific and unique emergency and escape
18 response plans at a city, county, or state adult or juvenile
19 correctional facility, the public disclosure of which would have a
20 substantial likelihood of threatening the security of a city, county,
21 or state adult or juvenile correctional facility or any individual's
22 safety.

23 (ccc) Information compiled by school districts or schools in the
24 development of their comprehensive safe school plans pursuant to RCW
25 28A.320.125, to the extent that they identify specific vulnerabilities
26 of school districts and each individual school.

27 (ddd) Information regarding the infrastructure and security of
28 computer and telecommunications networks, consisting of security
29 passwords, security access codes and programs, access codes for secure
30 software applications, security and service recovery plans, security
31 risk assessments, and security test results to the extent that they
32 identify specific system vulnerabilities.

33 (2) Except for information described in subsection (1)(c)(i) of
34 this section and confidential income data exempted from public
35 inspection pursuant to RCW 84.40.020, the exemptions of this section
36 are inapplicable to the extent that information, the disclosure of
37 which would violate personal privacy or vital governmental interests,

1 can be deleted from the specific records sought. No exemption may be
2 construed to permit the nondisclosure of statistical information not
3 descriptive of any readily identifiable person or persons.

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

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

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