

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1445

C 197 L 07

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Making adjustments to the recodification of the public records act.

Sponsors: By House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Kessler, Rodne, Chandler, Hunt, Upthegrove and Miloscia; by request of Attorney General).

House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs
Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections

Background:

In 1972 voters approved Initiative 276. The initiative called for disclosure of campaign finances, lobbyist activities, financial affairs of elective officers and candidates, and access to public records.

The public records disclosure statutes were codified between the statutes on campaign finance reporting and campaign contribution limits, making responsibility for enforcement of the public records disclosure status unclear.

In 2005 the Legislature enacted HB 1133 to move the public records portions of the Public Disclosure Act into a new chapter, RCW 42.56, the Public Records Act (PRA). Definitions relating to the PRA were incorporated by reference to RCW 42.17.

Summary:

Agency, public record, and writing are defined. Previous references to definitions in Chapter 42.17 RCW are referenced to Chapter 42.56 RCW.

The statement of statutory intent is amended to state that in the event of a conflict between the provisions of the PRA and any other act, the provisions of the PRA must govern.

An exemption for small business economic impact statements is removed from the category of exemptions for insurance or financial institutions and placed in the category of exemptions relating to financial, commercial, and proprietary information.

The exemption relating to the conditions in which law enforcement may request a person's utility records is restored to its meaning prior to recodification of the PRA.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	94	0
Senate	48	0

Effective: July 22, 2007
June 30, 2008 (Section 4)