
SENATE BILL 6576

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Brown and Tom

Read first time 02/01/12. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing school districts to charge for the
2 reasonable costs of responding to public records requests; amending RCW
3 42.56.120; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 By August 31, 2012, each school district shall adopt a policy to
8 charge for the reasonable costs of responding to public records
9 requests. The policy shall be consistent with RCW 42.56.070. The
10 costs shall not be more than the actual classified personnel costs
11 required to complete the search, review, redact, and copy of the
12 records. The policy shall require the school district to provide a
13 written estimate of the cost for complying with the request within ten
14 business days of receiving the request for public records. School
15 districts may require a deposit of up to ten percent of the estimated
16 cost to be paid in advance. The cost shall not include any attorney
17 costs to prepare an exemption log.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.56.120 and 2005 c 483 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section,
4 no fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records. No fee
5 shall be charged for locating public documents and making them
6 available for copying.

7 (2) A reasonable charge may be imposed for providing copies of
8 public records and for the use by any person of agency equipment or
9 equipment of the office of the secretary of the senate or the office of
10 the chief clerk of the house of representatives to copy public records,
11 which charges shall not exceed the amount necessary to reimburse the
12 agency, the office of the secretary of the senate, or the office of the
13 chief clerk of the house of representatives for its actual costs
14 directly incident to such copying. Agency charges for photocopies
15 shall be imposed in accordance with the actual per page cost or other
16 costs established and published by the agency. In no event may an
17 agency charge a per page cost greater than the actual per page cost as
18 established and published by the agency. To the extent the agency has
19 not determined the actual per page cost for photocopies of public
20 records, the agency may not charge in excess of fifteen cents per page.
21 An agency may require a deposit in an amount not to exceed ten percent
22 of the estimated cost of providing copies for a request. If an agency
23 makes a request available on a partial or installment basis, the agency
24 may charge for each part of the request as it is provided. If an
25 installment of a records request is not claimed or reviewed, the agency
26 is not obligated to fulfill the balance of the request.

27 (3) School districts may charge for the reasonable costs of
28 responding to public records requests. The cost charged shall be
29 consistent with the district adopted policy adopted under section 1 of
30 this act and shall not be more than the actual classified personnel
31 costs required to complete the search, review, redact, and copy of the
32 records. Within ten business days of receiving the request for public
33 records the school district shall provide a written estimated cost for
34 complying with the request. School districts may require a deposit of
35 up to ten percent of the estimated cost to be paid in advance. The
36 cost shall not include any attorney costs to prepare an exemption log.

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