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**State Government & Tribal Relations  
Committee**

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**HB 1673**

**Brief Description:** Exempting information relating to the regulation of explosives from public disclosure.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Steele, Eslick, Goehner and Riccelli.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Exempts records obtained and reports submitted under the Washington State Explosives Act from public disclosure under the Public Records Act.
- Requires the Sunshine Committee to evaluate by December 1, 2023, whether this exemption should be continued.

**Hearing Date:** 2/15/19

**Staff:** Jason Zolle (786-7124).

**Background:**

The Washington State Explosives Act (Explosives Act) regulates activities related to explosives and blasting agents, including their manufacture, possession, storage, sale, purchase, transport, and use. The Explosives Act requires the creation of certain records and reports. For instance, those wishing to manufacture, store, deal, or purchase explosives must submit an application for a license to the Department of Labor and Industries detailing the location of and reason for wanting to work with explosives, among other things. Explosives dealers must also file a report of interstate sales. Fingerprinting and criminal history record checks are required of anyone seeking a license to work with explosives. Records also are created when law enforcement seizes and initiates forfeiture proceedings against those possessing, selling, or using explosives in violation of the law.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The Public Records Act (PRA) generally requires state and local agencies to make many government records available to the public upon request. There are, however, over 500 statutory exemptions for certain records or information contained in records.

Washington created the Public Records Exemption Accountability Committee, known as the Sunshine Committee, in 2007 to review these exemptions from public disclosure and provide recommendations as to whether exemptions should be continued, modified, or terminated. The Sunshine Committee meets in public and considers input from interested parties. By November 15 of each year, it provides a report to the Legislature with its annual recommendations.

**Summary of Bill:**

All records obtained and reports submitted under the Explosives Act are exempt from disclosure under the PRA. This exemption does not extend to information related to the regulatory duties or actions of any agency.

By December 1, 2023, the Sunshine Committee must submit a report to the Legislature recommending whether the exemption for Explosives Act records should continue, be modified, or be terminated.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.