

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1673

C 125 L 19
Synopsis as Enacted

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

Sponsors: Representatives Steele, Eslick, Goehner and Riccelli.

House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations
Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections

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 are also created when law enforcement seizes and initiates forfeiture proceedings against those possessing, selling, or using explosives in violation of the law.

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.

The Public Records Exemption Accountability Committee, known as the Sunshine Committee, reviews these exemptions from public disclosure and provides 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:

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.

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.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	1
Senate	46	1

Effective: July 28, 2019