

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5127

C 182 L 23
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Clarifying school districts' ability to redact personal information related to a student.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on State Government & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Lovelett, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Nobles, Saldaña, Stanford, Van De Wege and Wellman).

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

Background: Public Records Act. The Public Records Act (PRA), enacted in 1972 as part of Initiative 276, requires all state and local government agencies to make all public records available for public inspection and copying, unless certain statutory exemptions apply. Over 500 specific references in the PRA or other statutes remove certain information from application of the PRA, provide exceptions to the public disclosure and copying of certain information, or designate certain information as confidential. The provisions requiring public records disclosure must be interpreted liberally, while the exemptions are interpreted narrowly to effectuate the general policy favoring disclosure.

Children's Personal Information. Personal information, in any files maintained for students in public school, by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families for children enrolled in licensed child care, and for children enrolled in early learning, parks and recreation, youth development, or similar programs is exempt from public disclosure requirements. The Washington Supreme Court has defined personal information as information peculiar or proper to private concerns, rather than any information about an individual.

Summary: The personal information of a child, enrolled or who has been enrolled in a school district, contained in any records, including correspondence, is exempt from public disclosure requirements.

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

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	27	19
House	58	40

Effective: July 23, 2023