
**State Government & Tribal Relations
Committee**

HB 1610

Brief Description: Concerning the disclosure of critical energy infrastructure information.

Sponsors: Representatives Hunt, Doglio, Fitzgibbon, Parshley, Duerr and Zahn; by request of Department of Commerce.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Exempts critical energy infrastructure information collected in support of the Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office from disclosure under the Public Records Act.

Hearing Date: 2/4/25

Staff: Connor Schiff (786-7093).

Background:

The Public Records Act (PRA) requires state and local agencies to make all public records available for public inspection and copying, unless a record falls within an exemption in the PRA or another statute. Over 500 specific references in the PRA or other statutes remove certain information from application of the PRA, provide exceptions to public disclosure and copying of certain information, or designate certain information as confidential. The PRA is liberally construed, and its exemptions narrowly construed.

The PRA exempts certain security information from disclosure, including:

- portions of records assembled to prevent or respond to criminal terrorist acts for which public disclosure would have a substantial likelihood of threatening public safety;
- vulnerability assessments or specific emergency and escape response plans for a

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- correctional facility;
- information about infrastructure and security for computer and telecommunications networks; and
- certain System Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans for rail fixed guideway public transportation systems.

Summary of Bill:

Critical energy infrastructure information collected in support of the Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act.

Critical energy infrastructure information includes:

- records containing actual, potential, or threatened interference with, attacks on, compromise of, or incapacitation of critical energy infrastructure or protected systems which: (1) violates federal, state, or local law; (2) harms interstate commerce; or (3) threatens to disrupt or diminish the supply of energy to the extent that the public health, safety, and general welfare may be jeopardized; and
- information that does not simply give the general location of or relay publicly available information about the critical energy infrastructure.

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.