SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 6123

As of January 23, 2026

Title: An act relating to the protection of voluntary supplied personal information of local government employees.

Brief Description: Concerning the protection of voluntary supplied personal information of local government employees.

Sponsors: Senators Conway, Nobles, Saldaña and Valdez.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 1/23/26.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Exempts voluntary submitted information collected and maintained by a local agency that identifies an individual employee's personal demographic details from public inspection and copying.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Greg Vogel (786-7413)

Background: The Public Records Act (PRA), enacted in 1972 as part of Initiative 276, requires that all state and local government agencies make all public records available for public inspection and copying unless certain statutory exemptions apply. Specific references in the PRA and 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.

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.

Voluntary submitted information collected and maintained by a state agency or higher education institution that identifies an individual state employee's personal demographic details is exempt from public inspection and copying.

Personal demographic details include race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, national origin, or status as a person with a disability.

Summary of Bill: Voluntary submitted information collected and maintained by a local agency that identifies an individual employee's personal demographic details is exempt from public inspection and copying.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: State and local government are required by the Civil Rights Act to collect certain demographic information about their work force and report on a biennial basis. State and local governments typically collect this information when they bring somebody on board and its voluntarily given. We not only report this data but use this data to give us a picture of who works for us. Its useful in ensuring that our work force is reflective of the communities that we serve. In 2020, the Legislature took the step of protecting this information for state employees, this bill simply expands this exemption to local governments. It helps in building trust for our work force if we can say that we can protect this data on an individual, personal level. This does not impede our ability to produce aggregate data for reports.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Robin Vazquez, Pierce County.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.