

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 761

AN ACT

To repeal section 610.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to access to public records.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 610.021, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 43.253 and 610.021, to read as follows:

43.253. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a minimum fee of five dollars may be charged by the Missouri state highway patrol for any records request where there are allowable fees of less than five dollars under this chapter or chapter 610. Such five-dollar fee shall be in place of any allowable fee of less than five dollars.

2. The superintendent of the Missouri state highway patrol may increase the minimum fee described in this section by no more than one dollar every other year beginning August 28, 2023; however, the minimum fee described in this section shall not exceed ten dollars.

3. A request for public records under chapter 43 or chapter 610 shall be considered withdrawn if the requester fails to remit all fees within thirty days of a request for payment of the fees by the Missouri state highway patrol.

610.021. Except to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law, a public governmental body is authorized to close meetings, records and votes, to the extent they relate to the following:

5 (1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation
6 involving a public governmental body and any confidential or
7 privileged communications between a public governmental body
8 or its representatives and its attorneys. However, any
9 minutes, vote or settlement agreement relating to legal
10 actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public
11 governmental body or any agent or entity representing its
12 interests or acting on its behalf or with its authority,
13 including any insurance company acting on behalf of a public
14 government body as its insured, shall be made public upon
15 final disposition of the matter voted upon or upon the
16 signing by the parties of the settlement agreement, unless,
17 prior to final disposition, the settlement agreement is
18 ordered closed by a court after a written finding that the
19 adverse impact to a plaintiff or plaintiffs to the action
20 clearly outweighs the public policy considerations of
21 section 610.011, however, the amount of any moneys paid by,
22 or on behalf of, the public governmental body shall be
23 disclosed; provided, however, in matters involving the
24 exercise of the power of eminent domain, the vote shall be
25 announced or become public immediately following the action
26 on the motion to authorize institution of such a legal
27 action. Legal work product shall be considered a closed
28 record;

29 (2) Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a
30 public governmental body where public knowledge of the
31 transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration
32 therefor. However, any minutes, vote or public record
33 approving a contract relating to the leasing, purchase or
34 sale of real estate by a public governmental body shall be
35 made public upon execution of the lease, purchase or sale of
36 the real estate;

37 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of
38 particular employees by a public governmental body when
39 personal information about the employee is discussed or
40 recorded. However, any vote on a final decision, when taken
41 by a public governmental body, to hire, fire, promote or
42 discipline an employee of a public governmental body shall
43 be made available with a record of how each member voted to
44 the public within seventy-two hours of the close of the
45 meeting where such action occurs; provided, however, that
46 any employee so affected shall be entitled to prompt notice
47 of such decision during the seventy-two-hour period before
48 such decision is made available to the public. As used in
49 this subdivision, the term "personal information" means
50 information relating to the performance or merit of
51 individual employees;

52 (4) The state militia or national guard or any part
53 thereof;

54 (5) Nonjudicial mental or physical health proceedings
55 involving identifiable persons, including medical,
56 psychiatric, psychological, or alcoholism or drug dependency
57 diagnosis or treatment;

58 (6) Scholastic probation, expulsion, or graduation of
59 identifiable individuals, including records of individual
60 test or examination scores; however, personally identifiable
61 student records maintained by public educational
62 institutions shall be open for inspection by the parents,
63 guardian or other custodian of students under the age of
64 eighteen years and by the parents, guardian or other
65 custodian and the student if the student is over the age of
66 eighteen years;

67 (7) Testing and examination materials, before the test
68 or examination is given or, if it is to be given again,
69 before so given again;

- 70 (8) Welfare cases of identifiable individuals;
- 71 (9) Preparation, including any discussions or work
72 product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its
73 representatives for negotiations with employee groups;
- 74 (10) Software codes for electronic data processing and
75 documentation thereof;
- 76 (11) Specifications for competitive bidding, until
77 either the specifications are officially approved by the
78 public governmental body or the specifications are published
79 for bid;
- 80 (12) Sealed bids and related documents, until the bids
81 are opened; and sealed proposals and related documents or
82 any documents related to a negotiated contract until a
83 contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected;
- 84 (13) Individually identifiable personnel records,
85 performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or
86 applicants for employment, except that this exemption shall
87 not apply to the names, positions, salaries and lengths of
88 service of officers and employees of public agencies once
89 they are employed as such, and the names of private sources
90 donating or contributing money to the salary of a chancellor
91 or president at all public colleges and universities in the
92 state of Missouri and the amount of money contributed by the
93 source;
- 94 (14) Records which are protected from disclosure by
95 law;
- 96 (15) Meetings and public records relating to
97 scientific and technological innovations in which the owner
98 has a proprietary interest;
- 99 (16) Records relating to municipal hotlines
100 established for the reporting of abuse and wrongdoing;
- 101 (17) Confidential or privileged communications between
102 a public governmental body and its auditor, including all

103 auditor work product; however, all final audit reports
104 issued by the auditor are to be considered open records
105 pursuant to this chapter;

106 (18) Operational guidelines, policies and specific
107 response plans developed, adopted, or maintained by any
108 public agency responsible for law enforcement, public
109 safety, first response, or public health for use in
110 responding to or preventing any critical incident which is
111 or appears to be terrorist in nature and which has the
112 potential to endanger individual or public safety or
113 health. Financial records related to the procurement of or
114 expenditures relating to operational guidelines, policies or
115 plans purchased with public funds shall be open. When
116 seeking to close information pursuant to this exception, the
117 public governmental body shall affirmatively state in
118 writing that disclosure would impair the public governmental
119 body's ability to protect the security or safety of persons
120 or real property, and shall in the same writing state that
121 the public interest in nondisclosure outweighs the public
122 interest in disclosure of the records;

123 (19) Existing or proposed security systems and
124 structural plans of real property owned or leased by a
125 public governmental body, and information that is
126 voluntarily submitted by a nonpublic entity owning or
127 operating an infrastructure to any public governmental body
128 for use by that body to devise plans for protection of that
129 infrastructure, the public disclosure of which would
130 threaten public safety:

131 (a) Records related to the procurement of or
132 expenditures relating to security systems purchased with
133 public funds shall be open;

134 (b) When seeking to close information pursuant to this
135 exception, the public governmental body shall affirmatively

136 state in writing that disclosure would impair the public
137 governmental body's ability to protect the security or
138 safety of persons or real property, and shall in the same
139 writing state that the public interest in nondisclosure
140 outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the records;

141 (c) Records that are voluntarily submitted by a
142 nonpublic entity shall be reviewed by the receiving agency
143 within ninety days of submission to determine if retention
144 of the document is necessary in furtherance of a state
145 security interest. If retention is not necessary, the
146 documents shall be returned to the nonpublic governmental
147 body or destroyed;

148 (20) The portion of a record that identifies security
149 systems or access codes or authorization codes for security
150 systems of real property;

151 (21) Records that identify the configuration of
152 components or the operation of a computer, computer system,
153 computer network, or telecommunications network, and would
154 allow unauthorized access to or unlawful disruption of a
155 computer, computer system, computer network, or
156 telecommunications network of a public governmental body.
157 This exception shall not be used to limit or deny access to
158 otherwise public records in a file, document, data file or
159 database containing public records. Records related to the
160 procurement of or expenditures relating to such computer,
161 computer system, computer network, or telecommunications
162 network, including the amount of moneys paid by, or on
163 behalf of, a public governmental body for such computer,
164 computer system, computer network, or telecommunications
165 network shall be open;

166 (22) Credit card numbers, personal identification
167 numbers, digital certificates, physical and virtual keys,
168 access codes or authorization codes that are used to protect

169 the security of electronic transactions between a public
170 governmental body and a person or entity doing business with
171 a public governmental body. Nothing in this section shall
172 be deemed to close the record of a person or entity using a
173 credit card held in the name of a public governmental body
174 or any record of a transaction made by a person using a
175 credit card or other method of payment for which
176 reimbursement is made by a public governmental body;

177 (23) Records submitted by an individual, corporation,
178 or other business entity to a public institution of higher
179 education in connection with a proposal to license
180 intellectual property or perform sponsored research and
181 which contains sales projections or other business plan
182 information the disclosure of which may endanger the
183 competitiveness of a business; [and]

184 (24) Records relating to foster home or kinship
185 placements of children in foster care under section 210.498;
186 and

187 (25) Individually identifiable customer usage and
188 billing records for customers of a municipally owned
189 utility, unless the records are requested by the customer or
190 authorized for release by the customer, except that a
191 municipally owned utility shall make available to the public
192 the customer's name, billing address, location of service,
193 and dates of service provided for any commercial service
194 account.