

Committee on Commerce and Tourism

CS/SB 754 — Public Records/Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Criminal or Civil Intelligence or Investigative Information

by Commerce and Tourism and Senator Richter

The bill creates a new public records exemption for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). The exemption provides that criminal or civil intelligence, investigative information, or any other information held by the DACS as part of a joint or multiagency examination with another state or federal agency will be confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

This exemption does not apply to information held by the DACS that would otherwise be available for public inspection if the DACS performed an independent investigation.

The public records exemption created by this bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2021, unless it is reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law if SB 772 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0