

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 459 Public Records

SPONSOR(S): Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Massullo, MD

TIED BILLS: CS/HB 461 **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 956

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	Moore	Harrington
2) Government Accountability Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida law contains a variety of provisions that make trade secret information exempt or confidential and exempt from public record requirements. Some exemptions only protect trade secrets, while others protect “proprietary business information” and define that term to specifically include trade secrets. While some of the exemptions do not define the term “trade secret,” a majority of them rely on one of two different statutory definitions: the definition contained in Florida’s criminal law statutes or the definition in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act. Some exemptions also provide a specific process that an agency must use when protecting trade secret information under the exemption.

The bill repeals all public record exemptions for trade secrets in current law, all associated processes for designating a trade secret, and all references to trade secrets contained in definitions for proprietary business information.

The bill repeals a provision authorizing the Department of the Lottery to determine by rule information relating to the operation of the lottery that is confidential and exempt from public record requirements.

The bill repeals s. 815.045, F.S., which is a public necessity statement for a trade secret exemption that was inadvertently codified in the Florida Statutes.

The bill specifies that any contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, to which an agency or an entity subject to public record laws is a party, is a public record, except that confidential or exempt information contained therein may be redacted prior to release of the contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, if the specific statutory exemption is identified. In addition, financial information related to any contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, with an agency or an entity subject to public record laws is not confidential or exempt. Such information includes the amount of money paid, any payment structure or plan, expenditures, incentives, bonuses, fees, and penalties.

The bill may have a minimal fiscal impact on the state and local governments. See Fiscal Comments section.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Public Records

Article I, section 24(a) of the Florida Constitution sets forth the state's public policy regarding access to government records. This section guarantees every person a right to inspect or copy any public record of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. The Legislature, however, may provide by general law for the exemption of records from the requirements of Article I, section 24(a) of the Florida Constitution.¹ The general law must state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption² and must be no more broad than necessary to accomplish its purpose.³

Public policy regarding access to government records is addressed further in s. 119.07(1)(a), F.S., which guarantees every person a right to inspect and copy any state, county, or municipal record. Furthermore, the Open Government Sunset Review Act⁴ provides that a public record or public meeting exemption may be created or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose. In addition, it may be no more broad than necessary to meet one of the following purposes:

- Allow the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, which administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption.
- Protect sensitive personal information that, if released, would be defamatory or would jeopardize an individual's safety; however, only the identity of an individual may be exempted under this provision.
- Protect trade or business secrets.⁵

Florida's Second District Court of Appeal has held that an amendment eliminating a public record exemption applies prospectively from the effective date of the amendment.⁶ Further, s. 119.15(7), F.S., provides that records created before the date of the repeal of an exemption may not be made public unless otherwise provided by law.

Trade Secrets

Florida law contains a variety of provisions that make trade secret information exempt or confidential and exempt⁷ from public record requirements. Some exemptions only protect trade secrets, while others protect "proprietary business information" and define that term to specifically include trade secrets. The following are examples of public record exemptions for trade secrets:

- Section 119.071(1)(f), F.S., exempts data processing software obtained by an agency under a licensing agreement that prohibits its disclosure where the software is a trade secret;

¹ FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(c).

² This portion of a public record exemption is commonly referred to as a "public necessity statement."

³ FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(c).

⁴ Section 119.15, F.S.

⁵ Section 119.15(6)(b), F.S.

⁶ *Baker v. Eckerd Corporation*, 697 So. 2d 970 (Fla. 2d DCA 1997).

⁷ There is a difference between records the Legislature designates as exempt from public record requirements and those the Legislature deems confidential and exempt. A record classified as exempt from public disclosure may be disclosed under certain circumstances. See *WFTV, Inc. v. The School Board of Seminole*, 874 So. 2d 48, 53 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004), *review denied* 892 So. 2d 1015 (Fla. 2004); *City of Riviera Beach v. Barfield*, 642 So. 2d 1135 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994); *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So. 2d 687 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991). If the Legislature designates a record as confidential and exempt from public disclosure, such record may not be released by the custodian of public records to anyone other than the persons or entities specifically designated in statute. See Attorney General Opinion 85-62 (August 1, 1985).

- Section 125.0104(9)(d), F.S., exempts trade secrets held by a county tourism promotion agency;
- Section 288.1226(8), F.S., exempts trade secrets relating to projects conducted by the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation;
- Section 331.326, F.S., makes trade secrets held by Space Florida confidential and exempt;
- Section 334.049(4), F.S., makes certain trade secret information obtained by the Department of State as a result of research and development projects confidential and exempt;
- Section 381.83, F.S., makes trade secret information obtained by the Department of Health confidential and exempt;
- Sections 403.7046(2) and (3)(b) and 403.73, F.S., make trade secret information reported to the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to specified regulations confidential and exempt;
- Section 440.108(2), F.S., makes trade secrets contained in records held by the Department of Financial Services relating to workers' compensation employer compliance investigations confidential and exempt;
- Section 499.012(3)(c), F.S., makes trade secret information provided to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation in a prescription drug permit application confidential and exempt;
- Section 502.222, F.S., makes trade secret information of a dairy industry business held by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) confidential and exempt;
- Section 526.311(2), F.S., makes trade secrets contained in investigative records related to the sale of liquid fuel and brake fuel obtained by DACS confidential and exempt;
- Section 560.129(2), F.S., makes information obtained by the Office of Financial Regulation in the course of an investigation of a money service business that is a trade secret confidential and exempt;
- Section 570.48(3), F.S., makes records containing trade secrets held by DACS' Division of Fruit and Vegetables confidential and exempt;
- Section 601.10(8)(b), F.S., makes any information held by the Department of Citrus that contains trade secrets confidential and exempt;
- Section 601.76, F.S., makes formulas containing trade secrets that are submitted to DACS confidential and exempt;
- Section 626.884(2), F.S., makes information contained in insurance administrators' records obtained by the Office of Insurance Regulation confidential and exempt; and
- Section 815.04(3) and (6), F.S., makes trade secret information that is held by an agency and exists internal or external to a computer, computer system, computer network, or electronic device confidential and exempt.

While some of these exemptions do not define the term "trade secret," a majority of them rely on one of two different statutory definitions of the term. Some of the exemptions define the term in accordance with Florida's criminal statutes, which define the term as follows:

"Trade secret" means the whole or any portion or phase of any formula, pattern, device, combination of devices, or compilation of information which is for use, or is used, in the operation of a business and which provides the business an advantage, or an opportunity to obtain an advantage, over those who do not know or use it. The term includes any scientific, technical, or commercial information, including financial information, and includes any design, process, procedure, list of suppliers, list of customers, business code, or improvement thereof. Irrespective of novelty, invention, patentability, the state of the prior art, and the level of skill in the business, art, or field to which the subject matter pertains, a trade secret is considered to be:

1. Secret;
2. Of value;
3. For use or in use by the business; and

4. Of advantage to the business, or providing an opportunity to obtain an advantage, over those who do not know or use it

when the owner thereof takes measures to prevent it from becoming available to persons other than those selected by the owner to have access thereto for limited purposes.⁸

Other exemptions define the term in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act,⁹ which defines the term as follows:

“Trade secret” means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process that:

(a) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and

(b) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.¹⁰

In addition, some exemptions provide a specific process that an agency¹¹ must use when protecting trade secret information under the exemption. For instance, some exemptions require the party that submits information claimed to be a trade secret to designate the information as protected, and some exemptions require the agency to determine whether information claimed to be a trade secret constitutes a trade secret.¹²

Section 815.045, F.S., contains the statement of public necessity¹³ for a public record exemption for “data, programs or supporting documentation which is a trade secret as defined in s. 812.081, F.S., which resides or exists internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network.” In *SEPRO Corporation v. Department of Environmental Protection*,¹⁴ the public necessity statement was

⁸ Section 812.081(1)(c), F.S.

⁹ Sections 688.001 through 688.009, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 688.002(4), F.S.

¹¹ The term “agency” is defined to mean any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law including, for the purposes of this chapter, the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency. Section 119.011(2), F.S.

¹² See s. 381.83(1), F.S.

¹³ Section 815.045, F.S., which begins “[t]he Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that trade secret information as defined in s. 812.081, and as provided for in s. 815.04(3), be expressly made confidential and exempt” is the required public necessity statement for s. 812.081, F.S., and it was inadvertently codified in the Florida Statutes. Public necessity statements are codified in the Laws of Florida.

¹⁴ SEPRO contracted with the Department of Environmental Protection to assist in the eradication of hydrilla from certain lakes. A public record request was made by another party for information relating to SEPRO and its processes for treating hydrilla. Upon discovering the request, SEPRO’s counsel informed the department that certain documents should be protected as trade secrets. The department advised that it intended to release the documents as the documents were not timely marked as confidential prior to receipt of the public record request. The department did not release the documents as suit was filed to prevent disclosure. The circuit court found that certain documents could be disclosed and others could not. SEPRO appealed and the district court affirmed, finding that the documents that the corporation failed to mark as confidential prior to the public record request could be disclosed and held that the trade secret exemption applied to electronic mail sent to the department. Noting that it is a felony to release trade secret information under s. 815.04(3), F.S., the court stated:

Due to the legal uncertainty as to whether a public employee would be protected from a felony conviction if otherwise complying with chapter 119, and with s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, *it is imperative that a public records exemption be created*. Currently, s. 812.081, F.S., provides a definition for “trade secret” and makes it a felony of the third degree for any person to intentionally deprive or withhold from the owner the control of a trade secret, or to intentionally appropriate, use, steal, embezzle or copy the trade secret . . . The original placement (of the exemption) . . . evinces a contemporaneous view that the exemption . . . applies to more than computer data, programs or supporting documentation . . . (*emphasis added*).

interpreted by a district court to be a public record exemption. This interpretation had the result of extending protection to certain information that had been filed with an agency.

Department of the Lottery

Article X, section 15 of the Florida Constitution authorizes the state lottery. Although the Constitution initially prohibited lotteries, it was amended in 1986 to allow lotteries to be operated only by the state.

Chapter 24, F.S., was enacted by ch. 87-65, L.O.F., to implement the constitutional provision. Section 24.102, F.S., outlines the purpose and intent of the chapter, which is to enable the people of the state to benefit from significant additional moneys for education and to play the best lottery games available. This section also specifies it is the intent of the Legislature that:

- The net proceeds of lottery games be used to support improvements in public education without serving as a substitute for existing public education resources;
- The lottery be operated by a state department that functions as much as possible in the manner of an entrepreneurial business enterprise;
- The lottery games be operated by a self-supporting, revenue-producing department; and
- The department be accountable to the Legislature and the people of the state through a system of audits and reports and through compliance with financial disclosure, open meetings, and public records laws.¹⁵

Chapter 24, F.S., establishes the Department of the Lottery (department) to operate the state lottery with the purpose of maximizing revenues in a manner consonant with the dignity of the state and the welfare of its citizens.¹⁶ Section 24.105, F.S., authorizes the department to adopt rules governing the establishment and operation of the state lottery. The department is specifically authorized to determine by rule information relating to the operation of the lottery that is confidential and exempt from public record requirements. Such information includes trade secrets; security measures, systems, or procedures; security reports; information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the department to contract for goods or services on favorable terms; employee personnel information unrelated to compensation, duties, qualifications, or responsibilities; and information obtained by the Division of Security pursuant to its investigations which is otherwise confidential. To be deemed confidential, the information must be necessary to the security and integrity of the lottery. This statutory authorization was created prior to the constitutional amendment referenced above, which provides that *only* the Legislature may create a public record exemption.

Effect of the Bill

The bill repeals all public record exemptions for trade secrets in current law, all associated processes for designating a trade secret, and all references to trade secrets contained in definitions for proprietary business information.

The bill repeals the provision authorizing the Department of the Lottery to determine by rule information relating to the operation of the lottery that is confidential and exempt from public record requirements.

The bill repeals s. 815.045, F.S., which is a public necessity statement for a trade secret exemption that was inadvertently codified in the Florida Statutes.

The bill specifies that any contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, to which an agency or an entity subject to public record laws is a party, is a public record, except that confidential or exempt information contained therein may be redacted prior to release of the contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, if the specific statutory exemption is identified. In addition, financial information related to any contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, with an agency or an entity subject to

¹⁵ Section 24.102(2), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 24.104, F.S.

public record laws is not confidential or exempt. Such information includes the amount of money paid, any payment structure or plan, expenditures, incentives, bonuses, fees, and penalties.

For purposes of this provision, the term “agency” includes any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law, including the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. creates s. 119.07135, F.S., providing that certain information related to agency contracts is not confidential or exempt from public records requirements.

Section 2. amends s. 24.105, F.S., deleting provisions relating to exemptions from public records requirements for certain information held by the Department of the Lottery.

Section 3. amends s. 73.0155, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to public records exemptions for trade secrets held by governmental condemning authorities.

Section 4. amends s. 119.071, F.S., deleting a provision declaring that certain data processing software exempt from public records requirements is considered a trade secret; removing the scheduled repeal of the public record exemption.

Section 5. amends s. 119.0713, F.S., deleting a provision exempting trade secrets held by local government agencies from public records requirements.

Section 6. amends s. 125.0104, F.S., deleting a provision exempting trade secrets held by county tourism development agencies from public records requirements.

Section 7. amends s. 163.01, F.S., deleting a provision exempting trade secrets held by public agencies that are electric utilities from public records requirements.

Section 8. amends s. 202.195, F.S., deleting a provision exempting trade secrets obtained from a telecommunications company or franchised cable company for certain purposes from public records requirements.

Section 9. amends s. 215.4401, F.S., deleting provisions relating to confidentiality of trade secrets held by the State Board of Administration.

Section 10. amends s. 252.88, F.S., deleting provisions exempting certain information from public records requirements under the Florida Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Section 11. repeals s. 252.943, F.S., relating to a public record exemption under the Florida Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning Act.

Section 12. amends s. 287.0943, F.S., deleting provisions relating to confidentiality of certain information relating to applications for certification of minority business enterprises.

Section 13. amends s. 288.047, F.S., deleting provisions exempting potential trade secrets from public records requirements.

Section 14. amends s. 288.075, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public records exemption for trade secrets held by economic development agencies.

Section 15. amends s. 288.1226, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public records exemption for trade secrets held by the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation.

Section 16. amends s. 288.776, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets held by the Florida Export Finance Corporation.

Section 17. amends s. 288.9520, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets and potential trade secrets held by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and related entities.

Section 18. amends s. 288.9607, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets held by the Florida Development Finance Corporation.

Section 19. amends s. 288.9626, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets and potential trade secrets held by the Florida Opportunity Fund; conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 20. amends s. 288.9627, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public records exemption for trade secrets and potential trade secrets held by the Institute for Commercialization of Public Research; conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 21. amends s. 331.326, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public records exemption for trade secrets held by Space Florida.

Section 22. amends s. 334.049, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public records exemption for trade secrets held by the Department of State.

Sections 23. and 24. amend ss. 350.121 and 364.183, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Florida Public Service Commission.

Section 25. amends 365.174, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the E911 Board and the Technology Program within the Department of Management Services.

Sections 26., 27., and 28. amend ss. 366.093, 367.156, and 368.108, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public records exemptions for trade secrets held by the Florida Public Service Commission.

Section 29. amends s. 377.24075, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public records exemption for trade secrets held by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 30. repeals s. 381.83, F.S., relating to confidentiality of certain information containing trade secrets obtained by the Department of Health.

Section 31. amends s. 395.3035, F.S., deleting provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets of hospitals.

Section 32. amends s. 403.7046, F.S., revising provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets contained in certain reports to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 33. repeals s. 403.73, F.S., relating to confidentiality of certain information containing trade secrets obtained by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 34. amends s. 408.061, F.S., deleting a requirement that certain trade secret information submitted to the Agency for Healthcare Administration be clearly designated as such.

Section 35. amends s. 408.185, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for certain trade secrets held by the Office of the Attorney General.

Section 36. amends s. 408.910, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Florida Health Choices Program.

Section 37. amends s. 409.91196, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Agency for Healthcare Administration.

Section 38. amends s. 440.108, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Financial Services.

Section 39. amends s. 494.00125, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Office of Financial Regulation

Section 40. amends s. 497.172, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Financial Services or the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services.

Sections 41., 42., 43., and 44. amend ss. 499.012, 499.0121, 499.05, and 499.051, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Section 45. repeals s. 499.931, F.S., relating to maintenance of information held by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation that is deemed to be a trade secret.

Section 46. amends s. 501.171, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Legal Affairs.

Section 47. repeals s. 502.222, F.S., relating to trade secrets of a dairy business held by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Sections 48. and 49. amend ss. 517.2015 and 520.9965, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Office of Financial Regulation.

Section 50. amends s. 526.311, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Section 51. amends s. 548.062, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Florida State Boxing Commission.

Section 52. amends s. 556.113, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc.

Section 53. amends s. 559.5558, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Office of Financial Regulation.

Section 54. amends s. 559.9285, F.S., revising provisions specifying that certain information provided to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services does not constitute a trade secret.

Section 55. amends s. 560.129, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Office of Financial Regulation.

Section 56. amends s. 570.48, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Division of Fruit and Vegetables.

Sections 57. and 58. amend ss. 570.544 and 573.123, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Division of Consumer Services.

Section 59. repeals s. 581.199, F.S., relating to a prohibition on the use of trade secret information obtained under specified provisions for personal use or gain.

Sections 60., 61., and 62. amend ss. 601.10, 601.15, and 601.152, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Citrus.

Section 63. repeals s. 601.76, F.S., relating to a public record exemption for certain formulas filed with the Department of Agriculture.

Sections 64. and 65. amend ss. 607.0505 and 617.0503, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for certain information that might reveal trade secrets held by the Department of Legal Affairs.

Section 66. amends s. 624.4212, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Office of Insurance Regulation.

Section 67. repeals s. 624.4213, F.S., relating to trade secret documents submitted to the Department of Financial Services or the Office of Insurance Regulation.

Sections 68., 69., 70., 71., and 72. amends ss. 626.84195, 626.884, 626.9936, 627.0628, and 627.3518, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by the Department of Financial Services or the Office of Insurance Regulation.

Section 73. amends s. 655.057, F.S., revising provisions relating to a public record exemption for trade secrets held by the Office of Financial Regulation.

Section 74. repeals s. 655.0591, F.S., relating to trade secret documents held by the Office of Financial Regulation.

Section 75. amends s. 663.533, F.S., revising a cross-reference.

Section 76. repeals s. 721.071, F.S., relating to trade secret documents filed with the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Section 77. amends s. 815.04, F.S., deleting a public record exemption for certain trade secret information relating to offenses against intellectual property.

Section 78. repeals s. 815.045, F.S., relating to trade secret information.

Section 79. amends s. 1004.22, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets and potential trade secrets received, generated, ascertained, or discovered during the course of research conducted within the state universities.

Section 80. amends s. 1004.30, F.S., revising provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets held by state university health support organizations.

Section 81. amends s. 1004.43, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets and potential trade secrets held by the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute.

Section 82. amends s. 1004.4472, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets and potential trade secrets held by the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.

Section 83. amends s. 1004.78, F.S., deleting provisions relating to public record exemptions for trade secrets and potential trade secrets held by the technology transfers centers at Florida College System institutions.

Sections 84., 85., 86., and 87. amend ss. 601.80, 663.533, 721.13, and 921.0022, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 88. provides an effective date of upon becoming a law if CS/HB 461 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have an impact on state revenues.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have an impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill could have a minimal fiscal impact on agencies because agency staff responsible for complying with public record requests may require training related to repeal of the public record exemptions. The costs, however, would be absorbed, as they are part of the day-to-day responsibilities of agencies.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not appear to create the need for rulemaking or rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On January 17, 2018, the Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee adopted an amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment:

- Clarified that contracts or agreements, or addendums thereto, are public records but an agency may redact confidential or exempt information from the contract or agreement prior to releasing it if the specific statutory exemption is identified;
- Made cross-reference changes and other conforming changes; and
- Revised the effective date to make it contingent on the passage of HB 461.

This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as approved by the Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.