

CS/HB 551 — PUBLIC RECORDS

by Governmental Affairs Policy Committee and Rep. Eisnaugle (CS/SB 1054 by Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Altman)

Current law provides a public record exemption for a complaint or any records relating to the complaint or to any preliminary investigation by the Commission on Ethics or a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust established by a county or a municipality. In addition, any proceedings regarding a complaint or preliminary investigation are exempt from public meetings requirements.

The bill expands those exemptions for the Commission on Ethics and the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust established by a county or municipality by extending its application to any county or municipality that has established a more stringent local investigatory process. It provides for repeal of the exemption on October 2, 2015, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. The bill also provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 110-0