



January 27, 2012

## SENATE BILL No. 92

DIGEST OF SB 92 (Updated January 25, 2012 3:35 pm - DI 87)

**Citations Affected:** IC 5-14; IC 34-30.

**Synopsis:** Public access issues. Provides that a court may impose a civil penalty against: (1) an officer of a public agency or an individual employed in a management level position with a public agency; or (2) the public agency; for violating the open door law with specific intent to violate the law if the plaintiff obtained an advisory opinion from the public access counselor before filing an action. Provides that a court may impose a civil penalty against an officer, management level employee, or the public agency for violating the public records law if the officer, management level employee, or agency: (1) continues to deny a request for a public record after the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion that instructs the agency to allow access to the public record; and (2) denies the request with the specific intent to unlawfully withhold a public record that is subject to disclosure. Provides that an individual or agency could be subject to a civil penalty if the individual intentionally charges a copying fee that the individual knows exceeds the amount set by statute, fee schedule, ordinance, or court order. Provides that a court may not impose a civil penalty unless the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion that instructs the public agency to allow access to the public record before the lawsuit is filed. Provides that it is a defense to the imposition of a civil penalty under this section for a violation of the open door law or public records law if the individual acted in reliance on an opinion of the public agency's legal counsel or an opinion of the attorney general. Requires a public agency to provide copies of records within a reasonable time in consideration of the public agency's workload and

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**Effective:** July 1, 2012.

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**Gard, Leising, Miller, Holdman,  
Mrvan**

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January 4, 2012, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.  
January 26, 2012, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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Digest Continued

difficulty in fulfilling the request. Provides that "education records" of a student at a state educational institution as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, may not be disclosed by the institution except to the student who is the subject of the records. Provides that if a local government agency has the capacity to send electronic mail, the agency shall provide notice to anyone (other than news media) that makes an annual request for notice by: (1) transmitting the notice by electronic mail; or (2) posting the notice on the agency's Internet web site (if the agency has an Internet web site). Provides that a court may not declare a governmental action void for failure to give notice by electronic mail or posting on the local government agency's web site, if the agency made a good faith effort to comply with the statute. Provides that a public agency may withhold personal information from public disclosure regarding an individual less than 18 years of age who participates in an activity conducted or supervised by a state educational institution, including personal information regarding the individual's parent or guardian. Requires (rather than allows) a court to review public records in camera to determine whether redaction of the records violates the public records act. Creates an education fund for a program administered by the public access counselor to train public officials and educate the public on the rights of the public and the responsibilities of public agencies under the public access laws. Provides that a public agency has discretion as to whether to disclose a public record requested by an offender containing personal information relating to a judge, law enforcement officer, or family member of a judge or law enforcement officer.

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January 27, 2012

Second Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2012)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in *this style type*, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in *this style type*.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## SENATE BILL No. 92

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 5-14-1.5-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.177-2005,  
2 SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 5. (a) Public notice of the date, time, and place of  
4 any meetings, executive sessions, or of any rescheduled or reconvened  
5 meeting, shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours (excluding  
6 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) before the meeting. This  
7 requirement does not apply to reconvened meetings (not including  
8 executive sessions) where announcement of the date, time, and place  
9 of the reconvened meeting is made at the original meeting and recorded  
10 in the memoranda and minutes thereof, and there is no change in the  
11 agenda.

12 (b) Public notice shall be given by the governing body of a public  
13 agency ~~by~~ **as follows:**

14 (1) **The governing body of a public agency shall give public**  
15 **notice by** posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the

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1 public agency holding the meeting or, if no such office exists, at  
 2 the building where the meeting is to be held. ~~and~~  
 3 **(2) The governing body of a public agency shall give public**  
 4 **notice by** delivering notice to all news media which deliver by  
 5 ~~January †~~ an annual written request for ~~such the~~ notices **not later**  
 6 **than December 31** for the next succeeding calendar year to the  
 7 governing body of the public agency. The governing body shall  
 8 give notice by one (1) of the following methods:  
 9 (A) Depositing the notice in the United States mail with  
 10 postage prepaid.  
 11 (B) Transmitting the notice by electronic mail, **if the public**  
 12 **agency has the capacity to transmit electronic mail.**  
 13 (C) Transmitting the notice by facsimile (fax).  
 14 **(3) This subdivision applies only to the governing body of a**  
 15 **public agency of a political subdivision described in section**  
 16 **2(a)(2), 2(a)(4), or 2(a)(5) of this chapter that has the capacity**  
 17 **to send electronic mail or has an Internet web site. The**  
 18 **governing body of a public agency shall give public notice by**  
 19 **delivering notice to any person (other than news media) who**  
 20 **delivers to the governing body of the public agency an annual**  
 21 **written request for the notices not later than December 31 for**  
 22 **the next succeeding calendar year. The governing body shall**  
 23 **give notice by one (1) of the following methods, which shall be**  
 24 **determined by the governing body:**  
 25 (A) Transmitting the notice by electronic mail, **if the public**  
 26 **agency has the capacity to send electronic mail.**  
 27 (B) Publishing the notice on the public agency's Internet  
 28 web site at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the  
 29 meeting, **if the public agency has an Internet web site.**  
 30 **A court may not declare void any policy, decision, or final action**  
 31 **under section 7 of this chapter based on a failure to give a person**  
 32 **notice under subdivision (3) if the public agency made a good faith**  
 33 **effort to comply with subdivision (3).** If a governing body comes into  
 34 existence after ~~January †~~, **December 31**, it shall comply with this  
 35 ~~subdivision~~ **subsection** upon receipt of a written request for notice. In  
 36 addition, a state agency (as defined in IC 4-13-1-1) shall provide  
 37 electronic access to the notice through the computer gateway  
 38 administered by the office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1.  
 39 (c) Notice of regular meetings need be given only once each year,  
 40 except that an additional notice shall be given where the date, time, or  
 41 place of a regular meeting or meetings is changed. This subsection does  
 42 not apply to executive sessions.

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1 (d) If a meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving actual  
2 or threatened injury to person or property, or actual or threatened  
3 disruption of the governmental activity under the jurisdiction of the  
4 public agency by any event, then the time requirements of notice under  
5 this section shall not apply, but:

6 (1) news media which have requested notice of meetings **under**  
7 **subsection (b)(2)** must be given the same notice as is given to the  
8 members of the governing body; and

9 (2) the public must be notified by posting a copy of the notice  
10 according to ~~this section~~: **subsection (b)(1)**.

11 (e) This section shall not apply where notice by publication is  
12 required by statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation.

13 (f) This section shall not apply to:

14 (1) the department of local government finance, the Indiana board  
15 of tax review, or any other governing body which meets in  
16 continuous session, except that this section applies to meetings of  
17 these governing bodies which are required by or held pursuant to  
18 statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation; or

19 (2) the executive of a county or the legislative body of a town if  
20 the meetings are held solely to receive information or  
21 recommendations in order to carry out administrative functions,  
22 to carry out administrative functions, or confer with staff  
23 members on matters relating to the internal management of the  
24 unit. "Administrative functions" do not include the awarding of  
25 contracts, the entering into contracts, or any other action creating  
26 an obligation or otherwise binding a county or town.

27 (g) This section does not apply to the general assembly.

28 (h) Notice has not been given in accordance with this section if a  
29 governing body of a public agency convenes a meeting at a time so  
30 unreasonably departing from the time stated in its public notice that the  
31 public is misled or substantially deprived of the opportunity to attend,  
32 observe, and record the meeting.

33 SECTION 2. IC 5-14-1.5-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.179-2007,  
34 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
35 JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 7. (a) An action may be filed by any person in any  
36 court of competent jurisdiction to:

37 (1) obtain a declaratory judgment;  
38 (2) enjoin continuing, threatened, or future violations of this  
39 chapter; or

40 (3) declare void any policy, decision, or final action:  
41 (A) taken at an executive session in violation of section 3(a) of  
42 this chapter;

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- 1 (B) taken at any meeting of which notice is not given in  
 2 accordance with section 5 of this chapter;  
 3 (C) that is based in whole or in part upon official action taken  
 4 at any:  
 5 (i) executive session in violation of section 3(a) of this  
 6 chapter;  
 7 (ii) meeting of which notice is not given in accordance with  
 8 section 5 of this chapter; or  
 9 (iii) series of gatherings in violation of section 3.1 of this  
 10 chapter; or  
 11 (D) taken at a meeting held in a location in violation of section  
 12 8 of this chapter.

13 The plaintiff need not allege or prove special damage different from  
 14 that suffered by the public at large.

15 (b) Regardless of whether a formal complaint or an informal inquiry  
 16 is pending before the public access counselor, any action to declare any  
 17 policy, decision, or final action of a governing body void, or to enter an  
 18 injunction which would invalidate any policy, decision, or final action  
 19 of a governing body, based on violation of this chapter occurring before  
 20 the action is commenced, shall be commenced:

- 21 (1) prior to the delivery of any warrants, notes, bonds, or  
 22 obligations if the relief sought would have the effect, if granted,  
 23 of invalidating the notes, bonds, or obligations; or  
 24 (2) with respect to any other subject matter, within thirty (30)  
 25 days of either:

- 26 (A) the date of the act or failure to act complained of; or  
 27 (B) the date that the plaintiff knew or should have known that  
 28 the act or failure to act complained of had occurred;

29 whichever is later. If the challenged policy, decision, or final action is  
 30 recorded in the memoranda or minutes of a governing body, a plaintiff  
 31 is considered to have known that the act or failure to act complained of  
 32 had occurred not later than the date that the memoranda or minutes are  
 33 first available for public inspection.

34 (c) If a court finds that a governing body of a public agency has  
 35 violated this chapter, it may not find that the violation was cured by the  
 36 governing body by only having taken final action at a meeting that  
 37 complies with this chapter.

38 (d) In determining whether to declare any policy, decision, or final  
 39 action void, a court shall consider the following factors among other  
 40 relevant factors:

- 41 (1) The extent to which the violation:  
 42 (A) affected the substance of the policy, decision, or final

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1                   action;  
2                   (B) denied or impaired access to any meetings that the public  
3                   had a right to observe and record; and  
4                   (C) prevented or impaired public knowledge or understanding  
5                   of the public's business.  
6                   (2) Whether voiding of the policy, decision, or final action is a  
7                   necessary prerequisite to a substantial reconsideration of the  
8                   subject matter.  
9                   (3) Whether the public interest will be served by voiding the  
10                  policy, decision, or final action by determining which of the  
11                  following factors outweighs the other:  
12                  (A) The remedial benefits gained by effectuating the public  
13                  policy of the state declared in section 1 of this chapter.  
14                  (B) The prejudice likely to accrue to the public if the policy,  
15                  decision, or final action is voided, including the extent to  
16                  which persons have relied upon the validity of the challenged  
17                  action and the effect declaring the challenged action void  
18                  would have on them.  
19                  (4) Whether the defendant acted in compliance with an informal  
20                  inquiry response or advisory opinion issued by the public access  
21                  counselor concerning the violation.  
22                  (e) If a court declares a policy, decision, or final action of a  
23                  governing body of a public agency void, the court may enjoin the  
24                  governing body from subsequently acting upon the subject matter of  
25                  the voided act until it has been given substantial reconsideration at a  
26                  meeting or meetings that comply with this chapter.  
27                  (f) In any action filed under this section, a court shall award  
28                  reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses  
29                  of litigation to the prevailing party if:  
30                  (1) the plaintiff prevails; or  
31                  (2) the defendant prevails and the court finds that the action is  
32                  frivolous and vexatious.  
33                  The plaintiff is not eligible for the awarding of attorney's fees, court  
34                  costs, and other reasonable expenses if the plaintiff filed the action  
35                  without first seeking and receiving an informal inquiry response or  
36                  advisory opinion from the public access counselor, unless the plaintiff  
37                  can show the filing of the action was necessary to prevent a violation  
38                  of this chapter.  
39                  **(g) A court may assess a civil penalty under section 7.5 of this**  
40                  **chapter only if the plaintiff obtained an advisory opinion from the**  
41                  **public access counselor before filing an action under this section as**  
42                  **set forth in section 7.5 of this chapter.**

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1 (g) (h) A court shall expedite the hearing of an action filed under  
2 this section.

3 SECTION 3. IC 5-14-1.5-7.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
4 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
5 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: **Sec. 7.5. (a) This section applies only  
6 to an individual who is:**

- 7 (1) an officer of a public agency; or  
8 (2) employed in a management level position with a public  
9 agency.

10 (b) An individual who with specific intent to violate the law fails  
11 to perform a duty imposed on the individual under this chapter by:

- 12 (1) failing to give proper notice of a regular meeting, special  
13 meeting, or executive session;  
14 (2) taking final action outside a regular meeting or special  
15 meeting;  
16 (3) participating in a secret ballot during a meeting;  
17 (4) discussing in an executive session subjects not eligible for  
18 an executive session;  
19 (5) failing to prepare a memorandum of a meeting required  
20 by section 4 of this chapter; or  
21 (6) participating in at least one (1) gathering of a series of  
22 gatherings under section 3.1 of this chapter;

23 subjects the individual and the public agency to a civil penalty  
24 under subsection (f).

25 (c) A civil penalty may only be imposed as part of an action filed  
26 under section 7 of this chapter. A court may not impose a civil  
27 penalty under this section unless the public access counselor has  
28 issued an advisory opinion:

- 29 (1) to the complainant and the public agency;  
30 (2) that finds that the individual or public agency violated this  
31 chapter; and  
32 (3) before the action under section 7 of this chapter is filed.

33 Nothing in this section prevents both the complainant and the  
34 public agency from requesting an advisory opinion from the public  
35 access counselor.

36 (d) It is a defense to the imposition of a civil penalty under this  
37 section that the individual failed to perform a duty under  
38 subsection (b) in reliance on either of the following:

- 39 (1) An opinion of the public agency's legal counsel.  
40 (2) An opinion of the attorney general.

41 (e) Except as provided in subsection (i), a court may impose a  
42 civil penalty against one (1) or more of the following:

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1           **(1) The individual named as a defendant in the action.**  
 2           **(2) The public agency named as a defendant in the action.**  
 3           **(f) The court may impose against each entity listed in subsection**  
 4 **(e) the following civil penalties:**  
 5           **(1) Not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first**  
 6 **violation.**  
 7           **(2) Not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each**  
 8 **additional violation.**  
 9           **The penalty imposed under this section is in addition to any other**  
 10 **civil or criminal penalty imposed. However, in any one (1) action**  
 11 **brought under this section, a court may impose only one (1) civil**  
 12 **penalty against an individual, even if the court finds that the**  
 13 **individual committed multiple violations. This subsection does not**  
 14 **preclude a court from imposing another civil penalty against an**  
 15 **individual in a separate action, but an individual may not be**  
 16 **assessed more than one (1) civil penalty in any one (1) action**  
 17 **brought under this section.**  
 18           **(g) A court shall distribute monthly to the auditor of state any**  
 19 **penalties collected under this section for deposit in the education**  
 20 **fund established by IC 5-14-4-14.**  
 21           **(h) An individual is personally liable for a civil penalty imposed**  
 22 **on the individual under this section. A civil penalty imposed**  
 23 **against a public agency under this section shall be paid from the**  
 24 **public agency's budget. The attorney general may bring an action**  
 25 **to collect unpaid civil penalties imposed under this section.**  
 26           **(i) If an officer of a public agency directs an individual who is**  
 27 **employed in a management level position to perform any action**  
 28 **under subsection (b)(1), the management level employee is not**  
 29 **subject to civil penalties under subsection (f).**  
 30           **SECTION 4. IC 5-14-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.2-2007,**  
 31 **SECTION 100, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS**  
 32 **[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 3. (a) Any person may inspect and**  
 33 **copy the public records of any public agency during the regular**  
 34 **business hours of the agency, except as provided in section 4 of this**  
 35 **chapter. A request for inspection or copying must:**  
 36           **(1) identify with reasonable particularity the record being**  
 37 **requested; and**  
 38           **(2) be, at the discretion of the agency, in writing on or in a form**  
 39 **provided by the agency.**  
 40           **No request may be denied because the person making the request**  
 41 **refuses to state the purpose of the request, unless such condition is**  
 42 **required by other applicable statute.**

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1 (b) A public agency may not deny or interfere with the exercise of  
2 the right stated in subsection (a). **Within a reasonable time after the**  
3 **request is received by the agency, considering the public agency's**  
4 **workload and difficulty in fulfilling the request,** the public agency  
5 shall either:

- 6 (1) provide the requested copies to the person making the request;
- 7 or
- 8 (2) allow the person to make copies:
  - 9 (A) on the agency's equipment; or
  - 10 (B) on the person's own equipment.

11 (c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), a public agency may or  
12 may not do the following:

- 13 (1) In accordance with a contract described in section 3.5 of this  
14 chapter, permit a person to inspect and copy through the use of  
15 enhanced access public records containing information owned by  
16 or entrusted to the public agency.
- 17 (2) Permit a governmental entity to use an electronic device to  
18 inspect and copy public records containing information owned by  
19 or entrusted to the public agency.

20 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e), a public agency that  
21 maintains or contracts for the maintenance of public records in an  
22 electronic data storage system shall make reasonable efforts to provide  
23 to a person making a request a copy of all disclosable data contained  
24 in the records on paper, disk, tape, drum, or any other method of  
25 electronic retrieval if the medium requested is compatible with the  
26 agency's data storage system. This subsection does not apply to an  
27 electronic map.

28 (e) A state agency may adopt a rule under IC 4-22-2, and a political  
29 subdivision may enact an ordinance, prescribing the conditions under  
30 which a person who receives information on disk or tape under  
31 subsection (d) may or may not use the information for commercial  
32 purposes, including to sell, advertise, or solicit the purchase of  
33 merchandise, goods, or services, or sell, loan, give away, or otherwise  
34 deliver the information obtained by the request to any other person for  
35 these purposes. Use of information received under subsection (d) in  
36 connection with the preparation or publication of news, for nonprofit  
37 activities, or for academic research is not prohibited. A person who  
38 uses information in a manner contrary to a rule or ordinance adopted  
39 under this subsection may be prohibited by the state agency or political  
40 subdivision from obtaining a copy or any further data under subsection  
41 (d).

42 (f) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, a public

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1 agency is not required to create or provide copies of lists of names and  
 2 addresses (including electronic mail account addresses) unless the  
 3 public agency is required to publish such lists and disseminate them to  
 4 the public under a statute. However, if a public agency has created a  
 5 list of names and addresses (excluding electronic mail account  
 6 addresses) it must permit a person to inspect and make memoranda  
 7 abstracts from the list unless access to the list is prohibited by law. The  
 8 lists of names and addresses (including electronic mail account  
 9 addresses) described in subdivisions (1) through (3) may not be  
 10 disclosed by public agencies to any individual or entity for political  
 11 purposes and may not be used by any individual or entity for political  
 12 purposes. In addition, the lists of names and addresses (including  
 13 electronic mail account addresses) described in subdivisions (1)  
 14 through (3) may not be disclosed by public agencies to commercial  
 15 entities for commercial purposes and may not be used by commercial  
 16 entities for commercial purposes. The prohibition in this subsection  
 17 against the disclosure of lists for political or commercial purposes  
 18 applies to the following lists of names and addresses (including  
 19 electronic mail account addresses):

- 20 (1) A list of employees of a public agency.  
 21 (2) A list of persons attending conferences or meetings at a state  
 22 educational institution or of persons involved in programs or  
 23 activities conducted or supervised by the state educational  
 24 institution.  
 25 (3) A list of students who are enrolled in a public school  
 26 corporation if the governing body of the public school corporation  
 27 adopts a policy:  
 28 (A) with respect to disclosure related to a commercial purpose,  
 29 prohibiting the disclosure of the list to commercial entities for  
 30 commercial purposes;  
 31 (B) with respect to disclosure related to a commercial purpose,  
 32 specifying the classes or categories of commercial entities to  
 33 which the list may not be disclosed or by which the list may  
 34 not be used for commercial purposes; or  
 35 (C) with respect to disclosure related to a political purpose,  
 36 prohibiting the disclosure of the list to individuals and entities  
 37 for political purposes.

38 A policy adopted under subdivision (3)(A) or (3)(B) must be uniform  
 39 and may not discriminate among similarly situated commercial entities.  
 40 For purposes of this subsection, "political purposes" means influencing  
 41 the election of a candidate for federal, state, legislative, local, or school  
 42 board office or the outcome of a public question or attempting to solicit

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1 a contribution to influence the election of a candidate for federal, state,  
2 legislative, local, or school board office or the outcome of a public  
3 question.

4 (g) A public agency may not enter into or renew a contract or an  
5 obligation:

- 6 (1) for the storage or copying of public records; or
  - 7 (2) that requires the public to obtain a license or pay copyright  
8 royalties for obtaining the right to inspect and copy the records  
9 unless otherwise provided by applicable statute;
- 10 if the contract, obligation, license, or copyright unreasonably impairs  
11 the right of the public to inspect and copy the agency's public records.

12 (h) If this section conflicts with IC 3-7, the provisions of IC 3-7  
13 apply.

14 SECTION 5. IC 5-14-3-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.170-2011,  
15 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
16 JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 4. (a) The following public records are excepted  
17 from section 3 of this chapter and may not be disclosed by a public  
18 agency, unless access to the records is specifically required by a state  
19 or federal statute or is ordered by a court under the rules of discovery:

- 20 (1) Those declared confidential by state statute.
- 21 (2) Those declared confidential by rule adopted by a public  
22 agency under specific authority to classify public records as  
23 confidential granted to the public agency by statute.
- 24 (3) Those required to be kept confidential by federal law.
- 25 (4) Records containing trade secrets.
- 26 (5) Confidential financial information obtained, upon request,  
27 from a person. However, this does not include information that is  
28 filed with or received by a public agency pursuant to state statute.
- 29 (6) Information concerning research, including actual research  
30 documents, conducted under the auspices of a state educational  
31 institution, including information:
  - 32 (A) concerning any negotiations made with respect to the  
33 research; and
  - 34 (B) received from another party involved in the research.
- 35 (7) Grade transcripts and license examination scores obtained as  
36 part of a licensure process.
- 37 (8) Those declared confidential by or under rules adopted by the  
38 supreme court of Indiana.
- 39 (9) Patient medical records and charts created by a provider,  
40 unless the patient gives written consent under IC 16-39 or as  
41 provided under IC 16-41-8.
- 42 (10) Application information declared confidential by the board

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1 of the Indiana economic development corporation under  
 2 IC 5-28-16.  
 3 (11) A photograph, a video recording, or an audio recording of an  
 4 autopsy, except as provided in IC 36-2-14-10.  
 5 (12) A Social Security number contained in the records of a  
 6 public agency.  
 7 (13) The following information that is part of a foreclosure action  
 8 subject to IC 32-30-10.5:  
 9 (A) Contact information for a debtor, as described in  
 10 IC 32-30-10.5-8(d)(2)(B).  
 11 (B) Any document submitted to the court as part of the debtor's  
 12 loss mitigation package under IC 32-30-10.5-10(a)(3).  
 13 **(14) Education records, as defined by the Family Educational**  
 14 **Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, of students at state**  
 15 **educational institutions. However, a student at a state**  
 16 **educational institution is entitled to access to the student's**  
 17 **own education records as required by the Family Educational**  
 18 **Rights and Privacy Act.**  
 19 (b) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (a), the following  
 20 public records shall be excepted from section 3 of this chapter at the  
 21 discretion of a public agency:  
 22 (1) Investigatory records of law enforcement agencies. However,  
 23 certain law enforcement records must be made available for  
 24 inspection and copying as provided in section 5 of this chapter.  
 25 (2) The work product of an attorney representing, pursuant to  
 26 state employment or an appointment by a public agency:  
 27 (A) a public agency;  
 28 (B) the state; or  
 29 (C) an individual.  
 30 (3) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used  
 31 in administering a licensing examination, examination for  
 32 employment, or academic examination before the examination is  
 33 given or if it is to be given again.  
 34 (4) Scores of tests if the person is identified by name and has not  
 35 consented to the release of the person's scores.  
 36 (5) The following:  
 37 (A) Records relating to negotiations between the Indiana  
 38 economic development corporation, the ports of Indiana, the  
 39 Indiana state department of agriculture, the Indiana finance  
 40 authority, an economic development commission, a local  
 41 economic development organization (as defined in  
 42 IC 5-28-11-2(3)), or a governing body of a political

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- 1 subdivision with industrial, research, or commercial prospects,
- 2 if the records are created while negotiations are in progress.
- 3 (B) Notwithstanding clause (A), the terms of the final offer of
- 4 public financial resources communicated by the Indiana
- 5 economic development corporation, the ports of Indiana, the
- 6 Indiana finance authority, an economic development
- 7 commission, or a governing body of a political subdivision to
- 8 an industrial, a research, or a commercial prospect shall be
- 9 available for inspection and copying under section 3 of this
- 10 chapter after negotiations with that prospect have terminated.
- 11 (C) When disclosing a final offer under clause (B), the Indiana
- 12 economic development corporation shall certify that the
- 13 information being disclosed accurately and completely
- 14 represents the terms of the final offer.
- 15 (6) Records that are intra-agency or interagency advisory or
- 16 deliberative material, including material developed by a private
- 17 contractor under a contract with a public agency, that are
- 18 expressions of opinion or are of a speculative nature, and that are
- 19 communicated for the purpose of decision making.
- 20 (7) Diaries, journals, or other personal notes serving as the
- 21 functional equivalent of a diary or journal.
- 22 (8) Personnel files of public employees and files of applicants for
- 23 public employment, except for:
- 24 (A) the name, compensation, job title, business address,
- 25 business telephone number, job description, education and
- 26 training background, previous work experience, or dates of
- 27 first and last employment of present or former officers or
- 28 employees of the agency;
- 29 (B) information relating to the status of any formal charges
- 30 against the employee; and
- 31 (C) the factual basis for a disciplinary action in which final
- 32 action has been taken and that resulted in the employee being
- 33 suspended, demoted, or discharged.
- 34 However, all personnel file information shall be made available
- 35 to the affected employee or the employee's representative. This
- 36 subdivision does not apply to disclosure of personnel information
- 37 generally on all employees or for groups of employees without the
- 38 request being particularized by employee name.
- 39 (9) Minutes or records of hospital medical staff meetings.
- 40 (10) Administrative or technical information that would
- 41 jeopardize a record keeping or security system.
- 42 (11) Computer programs, computer codes, computer filing

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- 1 systems, and other software that are owned by the public agency
- 2 or entrusted to it and portions of electronic maps entrusted to a
- 3 public agency by a utility.
- 4 (12) Records specifically prepared for discussion or developed
- 5 during discussion in an executive session under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1.
- 6 However, this subdivision does not apply to that information
- 7 required to be available for inspection and copying under
- 8 subdivision (8).
- 9 (13) The work product of the legislative services agency under
- 10 personnel rules approved by the legislative council.
- 11 (14) The work product of individual members and the partisan
- 12 staffs of the general assembly.
- 13 (15) The identity of a donor of a gift made to a public agency if:
- 14 (A) the donor requires nondisclosure of the donor's identity as
- 15 a condition of making the gift; or
- 16 (B) after the gift is made, the donor or a member of the donor's
- 17 family requests nondisclosure.
- 18 (16) Library or archival records:
- 19 (A) which can be used to identify any library patron; or
- 20 (B) deposited with or acquired by a library upon a condition
- 21 that the records be disclosed only:
- 22 (i) to qualified researchers;
- 23 (ii) after the passing of a period of years that is specified in
- 24 the documents under which the deposit or acquisition is
- 25 made; or
- 26 (iii) after the death of persons specified at the time of the
- 27 acquisition or deposit.
- 28 However, nothing in this subdivision shall limit or affect contracts
- 29 entered into by the Indiana state library pursuant to IC 4-1-6-8.
- 30 (17) The identity of any person who contacts the bureau of motor
- 31 vehicles concerning the ability of a driver to operate a motor
- 32 vehicle safely and the medical records and evaluations made by
- 33 the bureau of motor vehicles staff or members of the driver
- 34 licensing medical advisory board regarding the ability of a driver
- 35 to operate a motor vehicle safely. However, upon written request
- 36 to the commissioner of the bureau of motor vehicles, the driver
- 37 must be given copies of the driver's medical records and
- 38 evaluations.
- 39 (18) School safety and security measures, plans, and systems,
- 40 including emergency preparedness plans developed under 511
- 41 IAC 6.1-2-2.5.
- 42 (19) A record or a part of a record, the public disclosure of which

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1 would have a reasonable likelihood of threatening public safety  
 2 by exposing a vulnerability to terrorist attack. A record described  
 3 under this subdivision includes:

- 4 (A) a record assembled, prepared, or maintained to prevent,  
 5 mitigate, or respond to an act of terrorism under IC 35-47-12-1  
 6 or an act of agricultural terrorism under IC 35-47-12-2;
- 7 (B) vulnerability assessments;
- 8 (C) risk planning documents;
- 9 (D) needs assessments;
- 10 (E) threat assessments;
- 11 (F) intelligence assessments;
- 12 (G) domestic preparedness strategies;
- 13 (H) the location of community drinking water wells and  
 14 surface water intakes;
- 15 (I) the emergency contact information of emergency  
 16 responders and volunteers;
- 17 (J) infrastructure records that disclose the configuration of  
 18 critical systems such as communication, electrical, ventilation,  
 19 water, and wastewater systems; and
- 20 (K) detailed drawings or specifications of structural elements,  
 21 floor plans, and operating, utility, or security systems, whether  
 22 in paper or electronic form, of any building or facility located  
 23 on an airport (as defined in IC 8-21-1-1) that is owned,  
 24 occupied, leased, or maintained by a public agency. A record  
 25 described in this clause may not be released for public  
 26 inspection by any public agency without the prior approval of  
 27 the public agency that owns, occupies, leases, or maintains the  
 28 airport. The public agency that owns, occupies, leases, or  
 29 maintains the airport:
  - 30 (i) is responsible for determining whether the public  
 31 disclosure of a record or a part of a record has a reasonable  
 32 likelihood of threatening public safety by exposing a  
 33 vulnerability to terrorist attack; and
  - 34 (ii) must identify a record described under item (i) and  
 35 clearly mark the record as "confidential and not subject to  
 36 public disclosure under IC 5-14-3-4(b)(19)(J) without  
 37 approval of (insert name of submitting public agency)".

38 This subdivision does not apply to a record or portion of a record  
 39 pertaining to a location or structure owned or protected by a  
 40 public agency in the event that an act of terrorism under  
 41 IC 35-47-12-1 or an act of agricultural terrorism under  
 42 IC 35-47-12-2 has occurred at that location or structure, unless

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- 1 release of the record or portion of the record would have a
- 2 reasonable likelihood of threatening public safety by exposing a
- 3 vulnerability of other locations or structures to terrorist attack.
- 4 (20) The following personal information concerning a customer
- 5 of a municipally owned utility (as defined in IC 8-1-2-1):
- 6 (A) Telephone number.
- 7 (B) Address.
- 8 (C) Social Security number.
- 9 (21) The following personal information about a complainant
- 10 contained in records of a law enforcement agency:
- 11 (A) Telephone number.
- 12 (B) The complainant's address. However, if the complainant's
- 13 address is the location of the suspected crime, infraction,
- 14 accident, or complaint reported, the address shall be made
- 15 available for public inspection and copying.
- 16 (22) Notwithstanding subdivision (8)(A), the name,
- 17 compensation, job title, business address, business telephone
- 18 number, job description, education and training background,
- 19 previous work experience, or dates of first employment of a law
- 20 enforcement officer who is operating in an undercover capacity.
- 21 (23) Records requested by an offender that:
- 22 (A) contain personal information relating to:
- 23 (i) a correctional officer (as defined in IC 5-10-10-1.5);
- 24 (ii) a law enforcement officer (as defined in
- 25 IC 35-41-1-17);
- 26 (iii) a judge (as defined in IC 33-38-12-3);
- 27 (iv) the victim of a crime; or
- 28 (v) a family member of a correctional officer, law
- 29 enforcement officer (as defined in IC 35-41-1-17), judge
- 30 (as defined in IC 33-38-12-3), or the victim of a crime; or
- 31 (B) concern or could affect the security of a jail or correctional
- 32 facility.
- 33 (24) Information concerning an individual less than eighteen
- 34 (18) years of age who participates in a conference, meeting,
- 35 program, or activity conducted or supervised by a state
- 36 educational institution, including the following information
- 37 regarding the individual or the individual's parent or
- 38 guardian:
- 39 (A) Name.
- 40 (B) Address.
- 41 (C) Telephone number.
- 42 (D) Electronic mail account address.

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1 (c) Nothing contained in subsection (b) shall limit or affect the right  
 2 of a person to inspect and copy a public record required or directed to  
 3 be made by any statute or by any rule of a public agency.  
 4 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, a public record that is classified  
 5 as confidential, other than a record concerning an adoption or patient  
 6 medical records, shall be made available for inspection and copying  
 7 seventy-five (75) years after the creation of that record.  
 8 (e) Only the content of a public record may form the basis for the  
 9 adoption by any public agency of a rule or procedure creating an  
 10 exception from disclosure under this section.  
 11 (f) Except as provided by law, a public agency may not adopt a rule  
 12 or procedure that creates an exception from disclosure under this  
 13 section based upon whether a public record is stored or accessed using  
 14 paper, electronic media, magnetic media, optical media, or other  
 15 information storage technology.  
 16 (g) Except as provided by law, a public agency may not adopt a rule  
 17 or procedure nor impose any costs or liabilities that impede or restrict  
 18 the reproduction or dissemination of any public record.  
 19 (h) Notwithstanding subsection (d) and section 7 of this chapter:  
 20 (1) public records subject to IC 5-15 may be destroyed only in  
 21 accordance with record retention schedules under IC 5-15; or  
 22 (2) public records not subject to IC 5-15 may be destroyed in the  
 23 ordinary course of business.  
 24 SECTION 6. IC 5-14-3-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.22-2005,  
 25 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 26 JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 9. (a) A denial of disclosure by a public agency  
 27 occurs when the person making the request is physically present in the  
 28 office of the agency, makes the request by telephone, or requests  
 29 enhanced access to a document and:  
 30 (1) the person designated by the public agency as being  
 31 responsible for public records release decisions refuses to permit  
 32 inspection and copying of a public record when a request has  
 33 been made; or  
 34 (2) twenty-four (24) hours elapse after any employee of the public  
 35 agency refuses to permit inspection and copying of a public  
 36 record when a request has been made;  
 37 whichever occurs first.  
 38 (b) If a person requests by mail or by facsimile a copy or copies of  
 39 a public record, a denial of disclosure does not occur until seven (7)  
 40 days have elapsed from the date the public agency receives the request.  
 41 (c) If a request is made orally, either in person or by telephone, a  
 42 public agency may deny the request orally. However, if a request

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1 initially is made in writing, by facsimile, or through enhanced access,  
2 or if an oral request that has been denied is renewed in writing or by  
3 facsimile, a public agency may deny the request if:

- 4 (1) the denial is in writing or by facsimile; and
- 5 (2) the denial includes:
  - 6 (A) a statement of the specific exemption or exemptions
  - 7 authorizing the withholding of all or part of the public record;
  - 8 and
  - 9 (B) the name and the title or position of the person responsible
  - 10 for the denial.

11 (d) This subsection applies to a board, a commission, a department,  
12 a division, a bureau, a committee, an agency, an office, an  
13 instrumentality, or an authority, by whatever name designated,  
14 exercising any part of the executive, administrative, judicial, or  
15 legislative power of the state. If an agency receives a request to inspect  
16 or copy a record that the agency considers to be excepted from  
17 disclosure under section 4(b)(19) of this chapter, the agency may  
18 consult with the counterterrorism and security council established by  
19 IC 10-19-8-1. If an agency denies the disclosure of a record or a part of  
20 a record under section 4(b)(19) of this chapter, the agency or the  
21 counterterrorism and security council shall provide a general  
22 description of the record being withheld and of how disclosure of the  
23 record would have a reasonable likelihood of threatening the public  
24 safety.

25 (e) A person who has been denied the right to inspect or copy a  
26 public record by a public agency may file an action in the circuit or  
27 superior court of the county in which the denial occurred to compel the  
28 public agency to permit the person to inspect and copy the public  
29 record. Whenever an action is filed under this subsection, the public  
30 agency must notify each person who supplied any part of the public  
31 record at issue:

- 32 (1) that a request for release of the public record has been denied;
- 33 and
- 34 (2) whether the denial was in compliance with an informal inquiry  
35 response or advisory opinion of the public access counselor.

36 Such persons are entitled to intervene in any litigation that results from  
37 the denial. The person who has been denied the right to inspect or copy  
38 need not allege or prove any special damage different from that  
39 suffered by the public at large.

40 (f) The court shall determine the matter de novo, with the burden of  
41 proof on the public agency to sustain its denial. If the issue in de novo  
42 review under this section is whether a public agency properly denied

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1 access to a public record because the record is exempted under section  
2 4(a) of this chapter, the public agency meets its burden of proof under  
3 this subsection by establishing the content of the record with adequate  
4 specificity and not by relying on a conclusory statement or affidavit.

5 (g) If the issue in a de novo review under this section is whether a  
6 public agency properly denied access to a public record because the  
7 record is exempted under section 4(b) of this chapter:

8 (1) the public agency meets its burden of proof under this  
9 subsection by:

10 (A) proving that the record falls within any one (1) of the  
11 categories of exempted records under section 4(b) of this  
12 chapter; and

13 (B) establishing the content of the record with adequate  
14 specificity and not by relying on a conclusory statement or  
15 affidavit; and

16 (2) a person requesting access to a public record meets the  
17 person's burden of proof under this subsection by proving that the  
18 denial of access is arbitrary or capricious.

19 (h) The court may review the public record in camera to determine  
20 whether any part of it may be withheld under this chapter. **However,**  
21 **if the complaint alleges that a public agency denied disclosure of a**  
22 **public record by redacting information in the public record, the**  
23 **court shall conduct an in camera inspection of the public record**  
24 **with the redacted information included.**

25 (i) In any action filed under this section, a court shall award  
26 reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses  
27 of litigation to the prevailing party if:

28 (1) the plaintiff substantially prevails; or

29 (2) the defendant substantially prevails and the court finds the  
30 action was frivolous or vexatious.

31 The plaintiff is not eligible for the awarding of attorney's fees, court  
32 costs, and other reasonable expenses if the plaintiff filed the action  
33 without first seeking and receiving an informal inquiry response or  
34 advisory opinion from the public access counselor, unless the plaintiff  
35 can show the filing of the action was necessary because the denial of  
36 access to a public record under this chapter would prevent the plaintiff  
37 from presenting that public record to a public agency preparing to act  
38 on a matter of relevance to the public record whose disclosure was  
39 denied.

40 (j) **A court may assess a civil penalty under section 9.5 of this**  
41 **chapter only if the plaintiff obtained an advisory opinion from the**  
42 **public access counselor before filing an action under this section as**

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set forth in section 9.5 of this chapter.

(j) (k) A court shall expedite the hearing of an action filed under this section.

SECTION 7. IC 5-14-3-9.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 9.5. (a) As used in this section, "individual" means:

- (1) an officer of a public agency; or
- (2) an individual employed in a management level position with a public agency.

(b) If an individual:

(1) continues to deny a request that complies with section 3(a) of this chapter for inspection or copying of a public record after the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion:

- (A) regarding the request for inspection or copying of the public record; and
- (B) that instructs the public agency to allow access to the public record; and

(2) denies the request with the specific intent to unlawfully withhold a public record that is subject to disclosure under this chapter;

the individual and the public agency employing the individual are subject to a civil penalty under subsection (g).

(c) If an individual intentionally charges a copying fee that the individual knows exceeds the amount set by statute, fee schedule, ordinance, or court order, the individual is subject to a civil penalty under subsection (g).

(d) A civil penalty may only be imposed as part of an action filed under section 9 of this chapter. A court may not impose a civil penalty under this section unless the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion:

- (1) to the complainant and the public agency;
- (2) that instructs the public agency to allow access to the public record; and
- (3) before the action under section 9 of this chapter is filed.

Nothing in this section prevents both the person requesting the public record and the public agency from requesting an advisory opinion from the public access counselor.

(e) It is a defense to the imposition of a civil penalty under this section that the individual denied access to a public record in reliance on either of the following:

- (1) An opinion of the public agency's legal counsel.

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- 1           **(2) An opinion of the attorney general.**
- 2           **(f) A court may impose a civil penalty for a violation under**
- 3 **subsection (b) against one (1) or more of the following:**
- 4           **(1) The individual named as a defendant in the action.**
- 5           **(2) The public agency named as a defendant in the action.**
- 6           **(g) In an action under this section, a court may impose the**
- 7 **following civil penalties:**
- 8           **(1) Not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first**
- 9 **violation.**
- 10           **(2) Not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each**
- 11 **additional violation.**
- 12 **The penalty imposed under this section is in addition to any other**
- 13 **civil or criminal penalty imposed. However, in any one (1) action**
- 14 **brought under this section, a court may impose only one (1) civil**
- 15 **penalty against an individual, even if the court finds that the**
- 16 **individual committed multiple violations. This subsection does not**
- 17 **preclude a court from imposing another civil penalty against an**
- 18 **individual in a separate action, but an individual may not be**
- 19 **assessed more than one (1) civil penalty in any one (1) action**
- 20 **brought under this section.**
- 21           **(h) A court shall distribute monthly to the auditor of state any**
- 22 **penalties collected under this section for deposit in the education**
- 23 **fund established by IC 5-14-4-14.**
- 24           **(i) An individual is personally liable for a civil penalty imposed**
- 25 **on the individual under this section. A civil penalty imposed**
- 26 **against a public agency under this section shall be paid from the**
- 27 **public agency's budget. The attorney general may bring an action**
- 28 **to collect unpaid civil penalties imposed under this section.**
- 29           **(j) If an officer of a public agency directs an individual who is**
- 30 **employed in a management level position to perform any action**
- 31 **under subsection (b)(1), the management level employee is not**
- 32 **subject to civil penalties under subsection (g).**
- 33           **SECTION 8. IC 5-14-4-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE**
- 34 **AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY**
- 35 **1, 2012]: Sec. 14. (a) An education fund is established to fund a**
- 36 **program under section 10(1) of this chapter.**
- 37           **(b) The fund consists of the following:**
- 38           **(1) Civil penalties collected under IC 5-14-1.5-7.5 and**
- 39 **IC 5-14-3-9.5.**
- 40           **(2) Money appropriated by the general assembly.**
- 41           **(3) Grants, gifts, contributions, and money received from any**
- 42 **other source.**

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1           (c) The treasurer of state shall administer the fund. The  
 2 following may be paid from money in the fund:  
 3           (1) Expenses of administering the fund.  
 4           (2) Nonrecurring administrative expenses incurred to carry  
 5 out the purposes of this section.  
 6           (d) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not  
 7 revert to the state general fund.  
 8           (e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not  
 9 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same  
 10 manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that  
 11 accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.  
 12           SECTION 9. IC 34-30-2-14.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 13 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 14 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: **Sec. 14.1. IC 5-14-1.5-7.5 (Concerning**  
 15 **a public employee who, acting on the orders of a superior or on the**  
 16 **advice of the agency attorney or the attorney general, fails to**  
 17 **provide proper notice of a public meeting or executive session).**  
 18           SECTION 10. IC 34-30-2-14.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 19 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 20 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: **Sec. 14.2. IC 5-14-3-9.5 (Concerning**  
 21 **a public employee who, acting on the orders of a superior or on the**  
 22 **advice of the agency attorney or the attorney general, denies or**  
 23 **interferes with a person's request for inspection or copying of a**  
 24 **public record).**

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Local Government, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 92, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 5, delete lines 39 through 40, begin a new paragraph and insert:

**"(g) A court may assess a civil penalty under section 7.5 of this chapter only if the plaintiff obtained an advisory opinion from the public access counselor before filing an action under this section as set forth in section 7.5 of this chapter."**

Page 6, line 8, delete "knowingly and intentionally" and insert "**with specific intent to violate the law**".

Page 6, line 22, delete "(d)." and insert "**(f)**".

Page 6, between lines 22 and 23, begin a new paragraph and insert:

**"(c) A civil penalty may only be imposed as part of an action filed under section 7 of this chapter. A court may not impose a civil penalty under this section unless the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion:**

- (1) to the complainant and the public agency;**
- (2) that finds that the individual or public agency violated this chapter; and**
- (3) before the action under section 7 of this chapter is filed.**

**Nothing in this section prevents both the complainant and the public agency from requesting an advisory opinion from the public access counselor.**

**(d) It is a defense to the imposition of a civil penalty under this section that the individual failed to perform a duty under subsection (b) in reliance on either of the following:**

- (1) An opinion of the public agency's legal counsel.**
- (2) An opinion of the attorney general."**

Page 6, line 23, delete "(c)" and insert "**(e)**".

Page 6, line 23, delete "(g)," and insert "**(i)**".

Page 6, line 27, delete "(d)" and insert "**(f)**".

Page 6, line 28, delete "(c)" and insert "**(e)**".

Page 6, line 42, delete "(e)" and insert "**(g)**".

Page 7, line 3, delete "(f)" and insert "**(h)**".

Page 7, line 8, delete "(g)" and insert "**(i)**".

Page 7, line 11, delete "(d)." and insert "**(f)**".

Page 7, line 27, after "agency," insert "**considering the public agency's workload and difficulty in fulfilling the request,**".

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Page 10, between lines 34 and 35, begin a new line block indented and insert:

**"(14) Education records, as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, of students at state educational institutions. However, a student at a state educational institution is entitled to access to the student's own education records as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act."**

Page 17, line 40, delete "without the information redacted." and insert **"with the redacted information included."**

Page 18, delete lines 14 through 15, begin a new paragraph and insert:

**"(j) A court may assess a civil penalty under section 9.5 of this chapter only if the plaintiff obtained an advisory opinion from the public access counselor before filing an action under this section as set forth in section 9.5 of this chapter."**

Page 18, delete lines 24 through 34, begin a new paragraph and insert:

**"(b) If an individual:**

**(1) continues to deny a request that complies with section 3(a) of this chapter for inspection or copying of a public record after the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion:**

**(A) regarding the request for inspection or copying of the public record; and**

**(B) that instructs the public agency to allow access to the public record; and**

**(2) denies the request with the specific intent to unlawfully withhold a public record that is subject to disclosure under this chapter;**

**the individual and the public agency employing the individual are subject to a civil penalty under subsection (g).**

**(c) If an individual intentionally charges a copying fee that the individual knows exceeds the amount set by statute, fee schedule, ordinance, or court order, the individual is subject to a civil penalty under subsection (g).**

**(d) A civil penalty may only be imposed as part of an action filed under section 9 of this chapter. A court may not impose a civil penalty under this section unless the public access counselor has issued an advisory opinion:**

**(1) to the complainant and the public agency;**

**(2) that instructs the public agency to allow access to the**

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**public record; and**

**(3) before the action under section 9 of this chapter is filed.**

**Nothing in this section prevents both the person requesting the public record and the public agency from requesting an advisory opinion from the public access counselor.**

**(e) It is a defense to the imposition of a civil penalty under this section that the individual denied access to a public record in reliance on either of the following:**

**(1) An opinion of the public agency's legal counsel.**

**(2) An opinion of the attorney general."**

Page 18, line 35, delete "(d)" and insert "(f)".

Page 18, line 39, delete "(e)" and insert "(g)".

Page 19, line 12, delete "(f)" and insert "(h)".

Page 19, line 15, delete "(g)" and insert "(i)".

Page 19, line 20, delete "(h)" and insert "(j)".

Page 19, line 23, delete "(e)." and insert "(g)".

Page 20, delete lines 3 through 42.

Delete page 21.

Page 22, delete lines 1 through 15.

Page 22, line 19, after "superior" delete "," and insert "**or on the advice of the agency attorney or the attorney general,**".

Page 22, line 24, after "superior" delete "," and insert "**or on the advice of the agency attorney or the attorney general,**".

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 92 as introduced.)

LAWSON C, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0.

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y

