

HOUSE No. 3002

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Relative to the Public Records Law "The Massachusetts Sunshine Bill"..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 66 is hereby repealed and is replaced by the following language:

2 CHAPTER 66

3 PUBLIC RECORDS

4 THE MASSACHUSETTS SUNSHINE BILL

5 66 § 1 General state policy on public records.

6 66 § 2 Definitions.

7 66 § 3 Custodial requirements; maintenance, preservation, and retention of public
8 records.

9 66 § 4 Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees;
10 exemptions.

11 66 § 5 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.

12 66 § 6 Executive branch agency exemptions from inspection or copying of public
13 records.

14 66 § 7 Executive branch agency-specific exemptions from inspection or copying of
15 public records.

16 66 § 8 Local government agency exemptions from inspection or copying of public
17 records.

18 66 § 9 Court files; court records; official records.

19 66 § 10 Copyright of data processing software created by governmental agencies; sale
20 price and licensing fee.

21 66 § 11 Registration by federal employer's registration number.

22 66 § 12 Violation of chapter; penalties.

23 66 § 13 Protection of victims of crimes or accidents.

24 66 § 14 Accelerated hearing; immediate compliance.

25 66 § 15 Attorney's fees.

26 66 § 16 Legislative review of exemptions from public meeting and public records
27 requirements.

28 66 § 1 General state policy on public records

29 (1) It is the policy of this state that all state, county, and municipal records are open for
30 personal inspection and copying by any person. Providing access to public records is a duty of
31 each agency.

32 (2)(a) Automation of public records must not erode the right of access to those records.
33 As each agency increases its use of and dependence on electronic recordkeeping, each agency
34 must provide reasonable public access to records electronically maintained and must ensure that
35 exempt or confidential records are not disclosed except as otherwise permitted by law.

36 (b) When designing or acquiring an electronic recordkeeping system, an agency must
37 consider whether such system is capable of providing data in some common format such as, but
38 not limited to, the American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

39 (c) An agency may not enter into a contract for the creation or maintenance of a public
40 records database if that contract impairs the ability of the public to inspect or copy the public
41 records of the agency, including public records that are online or stored in an electronic
42 recordkeeping system used by the agency.

43 (d) Subject to the restrictions of copyright and trade secret laws and public records
44 exemptions, agency use of proprietary software must not diminish the right of the public to
45 inspect and copy a public record.

46 (e) Providing access to public records by remote electronic means is an additional method
47 of access that agencies should strive to provide to the extent feasible. If an agency provides
48 access to public records by remote electronic means, such access should be provided in the most
49 cost-effective and efficient manner available to the agency providing the information.

50 (f) Each agency that maintains a public record in an electronic recordkeeping system
51 shall provide to any person, pursuant to this chapter, a copy of any public record in that system
52 which is not exempted by law from public disclosure. An agency must provide a copy of the
53 record in the medium requested if the agency maintains the record in that medium, and the
54 agency may charge a fee in accordance with this chapter. For the purpose of satisfying a public
55 records request, the fee to be charged by an agency if it elects to provide a copy of a public
56 record in a medium not routinely used by the agency, or if it elects to compile information not
57 routinely developed or maintained by the agency or that requires a substantial amount of
58 manipulation or programming, must be in accordance with c. 66 § 4(4).

59 (3) If public funds are expended by an agency in payment of dues or membership
60 contributions for any person, corporation, foundation, trust, association, group, or other
61 organization, all the financial, business, and membership records of that person, corporation,
62 foundation, trust, association, group, or other organization which pertain to the public agency are
63 public records and subject to the provisions of c. 66 § 4.

64 66 § 2 Definitions

65 As used in this chapter, the term:

66 (1) "Actual cost of duplication" means the cost of the material and supplies used to
67 duplicate the public record, but does not include labor cost or overhead cost associated with such
68 duplication.

69 (2) "Agency" means any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer,
70 department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or
71 established by law including, for the purposes of this chapter, the Commission on Ethics, the

72 Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private
73 agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public
74 agency.

75 (3)(a) "Criminal intelligence information" means information with respect to an
76 identifiable person or group of persons collected by a criminal justice agency in an effort to
77 anticipate, prevent, or monitor possible criminal activity.

78 (b) "Criminal investigative information" means information with respect to an
79 identifiable person or group of persons compiled by a criminal justice agency in the course of
80 conducting a criminal investigation of a specific act or omission, including, but not limited to,
81 information derived from laboratory tests, reports of investigators or informants, or any type of
82 surveillance.

83 (c) "Criminal intelligence information" and "criminal investigative information" shall not
84 include:

85 1. The time, date, location, and nature of a reported crime.

86 2. The name, sex, age, and address of a person arrested or of the victim of a crime except
87 as provided in c. 66 § 5(2)(h).

88 3. The time, date, and location of the incident and of the arrest.

89 4. The crime charged.

90 5. Documents given or required by law or agency rule to be given to the person arrested,
91 except as provided in c. 66 § 5(2)(h), and, except that the court in a criminal case may order that
92 certain information required by law or agency rule to be given to the person arrested be

93 maintained in a confidential manner and exempt from the provisions of c. 66 § 4(1) until released
94 at trial if it is found that the release of such information would:

95 a. Be defamatory to the good name of a victim or witness or would jeopardize the safety
96 of such victim or witness; and

97 b. Impair the ability of a state attorney to locate or prosecute a codefendant.

98 6. Informations and indictments except as ordered by the court, a grand juror, reporter,
99 stenographer, interpreter, or officer of the court shall not disclose that an indictment for a felony
100 has been found against a person not in custody or under recognizance, except by issuing or
101 executing process on the indictment, until the person has been arrested.

102 (a) The word "active" shall have the following meaning:

103 1. Criminal intelligence information shall be considered "active" as long as it is related to
104 intelligence gathering conducted with a reasonable, good faith belief that it will lead to detection
105 of ongoing or reasonably anticipated criminal activities.

106 2. Criminal investigative information shall be considered "active" as long as it is related
107 to an ongoing investigation which is continuing with a reasonable, good faith anticipation of
108 securing an arrest or prosecution in the foreseeable future. In addition, criminal intelligence and
109 criminal investigative information shall be considered "active" while such information is directly
110 related to pending prosecutions or appeals. The word "active" shall not apply to information in
111 cases which are barred from prosecution under the provisions of the statute of limitation.

112 (4) "Criminal justice agency" means: (a) Any law enforcement agency, court, or
113 prosecutor;

114 (b) Any other agency charged by law with criminal law enforcement duties;

115 (c) Any agency having custody of criminal intelligence information or criminal
116 investigative information for the purpose of assisting such law enforcement agencies in the
117 conduct of active criminal investigation or prosecution or for the purpose of litigating civil
118 actions under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, during the time that such
119 agencies are in possession of criminal intelligence information or criminal investigative
120 information pursuant to their criminal law enforcement duties; or

121 (d) The Department of Corrections.

122 (5) "Custodian of public records" means the elected or appointed state, county, or
123 municipal officer charged with the responsibility of maintaining the office having public records,
124 or his or her designee.

125 (6) "Data processing software" means the programs and routines used to employ and
126 control the capabilities of data processing hardware, including, but not limited to, operating
127 systems, compilers, assemblers, utilities, library routines, maintenance routines, applications, and
128 computer networking programs.

129 (7) "Duplicated copies" means new copies produced by the process of reproducing an
130 image or images from an original to a final substrate through the electrophotographic,
131 xerographic, laser, or offset process or any combination of these processes, by which an operator
132 can make more than one copy without rehandling the original.

133 (8) "Exemption" means a provision of general law which provides that a specified record
134 or meeting, or portion thereof, is not subject to the access requirements of c. 66 § 4(1).

135 (9) "Information technology resources" means data processing hardware and software
136 and services, communications, supplies, personnel, facility resources, maintenance, and training.

137 (10) "Paratransit" means those elements of public transit which provide service between
138 specific origins and destinations selected by the individual user with such service being provided
139 at a time that is agreed upon by the user and provider of the service. Paratransit service is
140 provided by taxis, limousines, "dial-a-ride," buses, and other demand-responsive operations that
141 are characterized by their nonscheduled, nonfixed route nature.

142 (11) "Proprietary software" means data processing software that is protected by copyright
143 or trade secret laws.

144 (12) "Public records" means all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes,
145 photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of
146 the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or
147 ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.

148 (13) "Redact" means to conceal from a copy of an original public record, or to conceal
149 from an electronic image that is available for public viewing, that portion of the record
150 containing exempt or confidential information.

151 (14) "Sensitive," for purposes of defining agency-produced software that is sensitive,
152 means only those portions of data processing software, including the specifications and
153 documentation, which are used to:

154 (a) Collect, process, store, and retrieve information that is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1);

155 (b) Collect, process, store, and retrieve financial management information of the agency,
156 such as payroll and accounting records; or

157 (c) Control and direct access authorizations and security measures for automated systems.

158 66 § 3 Custodial requirements; maintenance, preservation, and retention of public records

159 (1) Public records shall be maintained and preserved as follows:

160 (a) All public records should be kept in the buildings in which they are ordinarily used.

161 (b) Insofar as practicable, a custodian of public records of vital, permanent, or archival
162 records shall keep them in fireproof and waterproof safes, vaults, or rooms fitted with
163 noncombustible materials and in such arrangement as to be easily accessible for convenient use.

164 (c)1. Record books should be copied or repaired, renovated, or rebound if worn,
165 mutilated, damaged, or difficult to read.

166 2. Whenever any state, county, or municipal records are in need of repair, restoration, or
167 rebinding, the head of the concerned state agency, department, board, or commission; the board
168 of county commissioners of such county; or the governing body of such municipality may
169 authorize that such records be removed from the building or office in which such records are
170 ordinarily kept for the length of time required to repair, restore, or rebind them.

171 3. Any public official who causes a record book to be copied shall attest and certify under
172 oath that the copy is an accurate copy of the original book. The copy shall then have the force
173 and effect of the original.

174 (2)(a) The Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State shall
175 adopt rules to establish retention schedules and a disposal process for public records.

176 (b) Each agency shall comply with the rules establishing retention schedules and disposal
177 processes for public records which are adopted by the records and information management
178 program of the division.

179 (c) Each public official shall systematically dispose of records no longer needed, subject
180 to the consent of the records and information management program of the division Secretary of
181 State.

182 (d) The division may ascertain the condition of public records and shall give advice and
183 assistance to public officials to solve problems related to the preservation, creation, filing, and
184 public accessibility of public records in their custody. Public officials shall assist the division by
185 preparing an inclusive inventory of categories of public records in their custody. The division
186 shall establish a time period for the retention or disposal of each series of records. Upon the
187 completion of the inventory and schedule, the division shall, subject to the availability of
188 necessary space, staff, and other facilities for such purposes, make space available in its records
189 center for the filing of semicurrent records so scheduled and in its archives for noncurrent
190 records of permanent value, and shall render such other assistance as needed, including the
191 microfilming of records so scheduled.

192 (3) Agency orders that comprise final agency action and that must be indexed or listed
193 pursuant to the Secretary of State have continuing legal significance; therefore, notwithstanding
194 any other provision of this chapter, each agency shall permanently maintain records of such
195 orders pursuant to the applicable rules of the Secretary of State.

196 (4)(a) Whoever has custody of any public records shall deliver, at the expiration of his or
197 her term of office, to his or her successor or, if there be none, to the records and information
198 management program of the Secretary of State all public records kept or received by him or her
199 in the transaction of official business.

200 (b) Whoever is entitled to custody of public records shall demand them from any person
201 having illegal possession of them, who must forthwith deliver the same to him or her. Any
202 person unlawfully possessing public records must within 10 days deliver such records to the
203 lawful custodian of public records unless just cause exists for failing to deliver such records.

204 66 § 4 Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions

205 (1)(a) Every person who has custody of a public record shall permit the record to be
206 inspected and copied by any person desiring to do so, at any reasonable time, under reasonable
207 conditions, and under supervision by the custodian of the public records.

208 (b) A custodian of public records or a person having custody of public records may
209 designate another officer or employee of the agency to permit the inspection and copying of
210 public records, but must disclose the identity of the designee to the person requesting to inspect
211 or copy public records.

212 (c) A custodian of public records and his or her designee must acknowledge requests to
213 inspect or copy records promptly and respond to such requests in good faith. A good faith
214 response includes making reasonable efforts to determine from other officers or employees
215 within the agency whether such a record exists and, if so, the location at which the record can be
216 accessed.

217 (d) A person who has custody of a public record who asserts that an exemption applies to
218 a part of such record shall redact that portion of the record to which an exemption has been
219 asserted and validly applies, and such person shall produce the remainder of such record for
220 inspection and copying.

221 (e) If the person who has custody of a public record contends that all or part of the record
222 is exempt from inspection and copying, he or she shall state the basis of the exemption that he or
223 she contends is applicable to the record, including the statutory citation to an exemption created
224 or afforded by statute.

225 (f) If requested by the person seeking to inspect or copy the record, the custodian of
226 public records shall state in writing and with particularity the reasons for the conclusion that the
227 record is exempt or confidential.

228 (g) In any civil action in which an exemption to this section is asserted, if the exemption
229 is alleged to exist under or by virtue of c. 66 § 5(1)(d) or (f), (2)(d),(e), or (f), or (4)(c), the public
230 record or part thereof in question shall be submitted to the court for an inspection in camera. If
231 an exemption is alleged to exist under or by virtue of c. 66 § 5(2)(c), an inspection in camera is
232 discretionary with the court. If the court finds that the asserted exemption is not applicable, it
233 shall order the public record or part thereof in question to be immediately produced for
234 inspection or copying as requested by the person seeking such access.

235 (h) Even if an assertion is made by the custodian of public records that a requested record
236 is not a public record subject to public inspection or copying under this subsection, the requested
237 record shall, nevertheless, not be disposed of for a period of 30 days after the date on which a
238 written request to inspect or copy the record was served on or otherwise made to the custodian of

239 public records by the person seeking access to the record. If a civil action is instituted within the
240 30-day period to enforce the provisions of this section with respect to the requested record, the
241 custodian of public records may not dispose of the record except by order of a court of
242 competent jurisdiction after notice to all affected parties.

243 (i) The absence of a civil action instituted for the purpose stated in paragraph (g) does not
244 relieve the custodian of public records of the duty to maintain the record as a public record if the
245 record is in fact a public record subject to public inspection and copying under this subsection
246 and does not otherwise excuse or exonerate the custodian of public records from any
247 unauthorized or unlawful disposition of such record.

248 (2)(a) As an additional means of inspecting or copying public records, a custodian of
249 public records may provide access to public records by remote electronic means, provided
250 exempt or confidential information is not disclosed.

251 (b) The custodian of public records shall provide safeguards to protect the contents of
252 public records from unauthorized remote electronic access or alteration and to prevent the
253 disclosure or modification of those portions of public records which are exempt or confidential
254 from subsection (1).

255 (c) Unless otherwise required by law, the custodian of public records may charge a fee
256 for remote electronic access, granted under a contractual arrangement with a user, which fee may
257 include the direct and indirect costs of providing such access. Fees for remote electronic access
258 provided to the general public shall be in accordance with the provisions of this section.

259 (3)(a) Any person shall have the right of access to public records for the purpose of
260 making photographs of the record while such record is in the possession, custody, and control of
261 the custodian of public records.

262 (b) This subsection applies to the making of photographs in the conventional sense by use
263 of a camera device to capture images of public records but excludes the duplication of microfilm
264 in the possession of the clerk of the circuit court where a copy of the microfilm may be made
265 available by the clerk.

266 (c) Photographing public records shall be done under the supervision of the custodian of
267 public records, who may adopt and enforce reasonable rules governing the photographing of
268 such records.

269 (d) Photographing of public records shall be done in the room where the public records
270 are kept. If, in the judgment of the custodian of public records, this is impossible or
271 impracticable, photographing shall be done in another room or place, as nearly adjacent as
272 possible to the room where the public records are kept, to be determined by the custodian of
273 public records. Where provision of another room or place for photographing is required, the
274 expense of providing the same shall be paid by the person desiring to photograph the public
275 record pursuant to paragraph

276 (4)(e).

277 (4) The custodian of public records shall furnish a copy or a certified copy of the record
278 upon payment of the fee prescribed by law. If a fee is not prescribed by law, the following fees
279 are authorized:

280 (a)1. Up to 15 cents per one-sided copy for duplicated copies of not more than 14 inches
281 by 8 1/2 inches;

282 2. No more than an additional 5 cents for each two-sided copy; and

283 3. For all other copies, the actual cost of duplication of the public record.

284 (b) The charge for copies of county maps or aerial photographs supplied by county
285 constitutional officers may also include a reasonable charge for the labor and overhead
286 associated with their duplication.

287 (c) An agency may charge up to \$1 per copy for a certified copy of a public record.

288 (d) If the nature or volume of public records requested to be inspected or copied pursuant
289 to this subsection is such as to require extensive use of information technology resources or
290 extensive clerical or supervisory assistance by personnel of the agency involved, or both, the
291 agency may charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication, a special service charge, which
292 shall be reasonable and shall be based on the cost incurred for such extensive use of information
293 technology resources or the labor cost of the personnel providing the service that is actually
294 incurred by the agency or attributable to the agency for the clerical and supervisory assistance
295 required, or both.

296 (e)1. Where provision of another room or place is necessary to photograph public
297 records, the expense of providing the same shall be paid by the person desiring to photograph the
298 public records.

299 2. The custodian of public records may charge the person making the photographs for
300 supervision services at a rate of compensation to be agreed upon by the person desiring to make

301 the photographs and the custodian of public records. If they fail to agree as to the appropriate
302 charge, the charge shall be determined by the custodian of public records.

303 (5) When ballots are produced under this section for inspection or examination, no
304 persons other than the supervisor of elections or the supervisor's employees shall touch the
305 ballots. If the ballots are being examined before the end of the contest period, the supervisor of
306 elections shall make a reasonable effort to notify all candidates by telephone or otherwise of the
307 time and place of the inspection or examination. All such candidates, or their representatives,
308 shall be allowed to be present during the inspection or examination.

309 (6) An exemption contained in this chapter or in any other general or special law shall not
310 limit the access of the Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
311 Accountability, or any state, county, municipal, university, board of community college, school
312 district, or special district internal auditor to public records when such person states in writing
313 that such records are needed for a properly authorized audit, examination, or investigation. Such
314 person shall maintain the exempt or confidential status of that public record and shall be subject
315 to the same penalties as the custodian of that record for public disclosure of such record.

316 (7) The provisions of this section are not intended to expand or limit the provisions of
317 Mass. Rules of Criminal Procedure, regarding the right and extent of discovery by the
318 state or by a defendant in a criminal prosecution or in collateral postconviction proceedings. This
319 section may not be used by any inmate as the basis for failing to timely litigate any
320 postconviction action.

321 66 § 5 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records

322 (1) AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

323 Examination questions and answer sheets of examinations administered by a

324 governmental

325 agency for the purpose of licensure, certification, or employment are exempt from c. 66 §

326 4(1).

327 A person who has taken such an examination has the right to review his or her own

328 completed examination.

329 (b)1.a. Sealed bids or proposals received by an agency pursuant to invitations to bid or

330 requests for proposals are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) until such time as the agency provides notice

331 of a decision or intended decision or within 10 days after bid or proposal opening, whichever is

332 earlier.

333 b. If an agency rejects all bids or proposals submitted in response to an invitation to bid

334 or request for proposals and the agency concurrently provides notice of its intent to reissue the

335 invitation to bid or request for proposals, the rejected bids or proposals remain exempt from c. 66

336 § 4(1) until such time as the agency provides notice of a decision or intended decision

337 concerning the reissued invitation to bid or request for proposals or until the agency withdraws

338 the reissued invitation to bid or request for proposals. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the

339 Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

340 2.a. A competitive sealed reply in response to an invitation to negotiate, is exempt from

341 c. 66 § 4(1) until such time as the agency provides notice of a decision or intended decision or

342 until 20 days after the final competitive sealed replies are all opened, whichever occurs earlier.

343 b. If an agency rejects all competitive sealed replies in response to an invitation to
344 negotiate and concurrently provides notice of its intent to reissue the invitation to negotiate and
345 reissues the invitation to negotiate within 90 days after the notice of intent to reissue the
346 invitation to negotiate, the rejected replies remain exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) until such time as the
347 agency provides notice of a decision or intended decision concerning the reissued invitation to
348 negotiate or until the agency withdraws the reissued invitation to negotiate. A competitive sealed
349 reply is not exempt for longer than 12 months after the initial agency notice rejecting all replies.

350 c. This subparagraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

351 (c) Any financial statement that an agency requires a prospective bidder to submit in
352 order to prequalify for bidding or for responding to a proposal for a road or any other public
353 works project is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

354 (d)1. A public record that was prepared by an agency attorney (including an attorney
355 employed or retained by the agency or employed or retained by another public officer or agency
356 to protect or represent the interests of the agency having custody of the record) or prepared at the
357 attorney's express direction, that reflects a mental impression, conclusion, litigation strategy, or
358 legal theory of the attorney or the agency, and that was prepared exclusively for civil or criminal
359 litigation or for adversarial administrative proceedings, or that was prepared in anticipation of
360 imminent civil or criminal litigation or imminent adversarial administrative proceedings, is
361 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) until the conclusion of the litigation or adversarial administrative
362 proceedings. For purposes of capital collateral litigation, the Attorney General's office is entitled
363 to claim this exemption for those public records prepared for direct appeal as well as for all

364 capital collateral litigation after direct appeal until execution of sentence or imposition of a life
365 sentence.

366 2. This exemption is not waived by the release of such public record to another public
367 employee or officer of the same agency or any person consulted by the agency attorney. When
368 asserting the right to withhold a public record pursuant to this paragraph, the agency shall
369 identify the potential parties to any such criminal or civil litigation or adversarial administrative
370 proceedings. If a court finds that the document or other record has been improperly withheld
371 under this paragraph, the party seeking access to such document or record shall be awarded
372 reasonable attorney's fees and costs in addition to any other remedy ordered by the court.

373 (e) Any videotape or video signal that, under an agreement with an agency, is produced,
374 made, or received by, or is in the custody of, a federally licensed radio or television station or its
375 agent is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

376 (f) Data processing software obtained by an agency under a licensing agreement that
377 prohibits its disclosure and which software is a trade secret and agency-produced data processing
378 software that is sensitive are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) The designation of agency-produced
379 software as sensitive shall not prohibit an agency head from sharing or exchanging such software
380 with another public agency.

381 (g)1. United States Census Bureau address information, which includes maps showing
382 structure location points, agency records verifying addresses, and agency records identifying
383 address errors or omissions, held by an agency pursuant to the Local Update of Census
384 Addresses Program, Title 13, United States Code, Pub. L. No. 103-430, is confidential and
385 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

386 2. Such information may be released to another agency or governmental entity in the
387 furtherance of its duties and responsibilities under the Local Update of Census Addresses
388 Program.

389 3. An agency performing duties and responsibilities under the Local Update of Census
390 Addresses Program shall have access to any other confidential or exempt information held by
391 another agency if such access is necessary in order to perform its duties and responsibilities
392 under the program.

393 4. This exemption is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

394 (2) AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS

395 (a) All criminal intelligence and criminal investigative information received by a criminal
396 justice agency prior to January 25, 1979, is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

397 (b) Whenever criminal intelligence information or criminal investigative information held
398 by a non- Massachusetts criminal justice agency is available to a Massachusetts criminal justice
399 agency only on a confidential or similarly restricted basis, the Massachusetts criminal justice
400 agency may obtain and use such information in accordance with the conditions imposed by the
401 providing agency.

402 (c)1. Active criminal intelligence information and active criminal investigative
403 information are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

404 2.a. A request made by a law enforcement agency to inspect or copy a public record that
405 is in the custody of another agency and the custodian's response to the request, and any
406 information that would identify whether a law enforcement agency has requested or received that

407 public record are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) during the period in which the information constitutes
408 active criminal intelligence information or active criminal investigative information.

409 b. The law enforcement agency that made the request to inspect or copy a public record
410 shall give notice to the custodial agency when the criminal intelligence information or criminal
411 investigative information is no longer active so that the request made by the law enforcement
412 agency, the custodian's response to the request, and information that would identify whether the
413 law enforcement agency had requested or received that public record are available to the public.

414 c. This exemption is remedial in nature, and it is the intent of the Legislature that the
415 exemption be applied to requests for information received before, on, or after the effective date
416 of this paragraph.

417 (d) Any information revealing surveillance techniques or procedures or personnel is
418 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). Any comprehensive inventory of state and local law enforcement
419 resources compiled, and any comprehensive policies or plans compiled by a criminal justice
420 agency pertaining to the mobilization, deployment, or tactical operations involved in responding
421 to emergencies, are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) and unavailable for inspection, except by personnel
422 authorized by a state or local law enforcement agency, or any other governmental office that has
423 an official need for access to the inventory or comprehensive policies or plans.

424 (e) Any information revealing the substance of a confession of a person arrested is
425 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1), until such time as the criminal case is finally determined by
426 adjudication, dismissal, or other final disposition.

427 (f) Any information revealing the identity of a confidential informant or a confidential
428 source is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

429 (g)1.a. All complaints and other records in the custody of any agency which relate to a
430 complaint of discrimination relating to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap,
431 or marital status in connection with hiring practices, position classifications, salary, benefits,
432 discipline, discharge, employee performance, evaluation, or other related activities are exempt
433 from c. 66 § 4(1) until a finding is made relating to probable cause, the investigation of the
434 complaint becomes inactive, or the complaint or other record is made part of the official record
435 of any hearing or court proceeding.

436 (h). Any state or federal agency that is authorized to have access to such complaints or
437 records by any provision of law shall be granted such access in the furtherance of such agency's
438 statutory duties.

439 2. When the alleged victim chooses not to file a complaint and requests that records of
440 the complaint remain confidential, all records relating to an allegation of employment
441 discrimination are confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

442 (i)1. The following criminal intelligence information or criminal investigative
443 information is confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1):

444 a. Any information, including the photograph, name, address, or other fact, which reveals
445 the identity of the victim of the crime of child abuse.

446 b. Any information which may reveal the identity of a person who is a victim of any
447 sexual offense.

448 c. A photograph, videotape, or image of any part of the body of the victim of a sexual
449 offense, regardless of whether the photograph, videotape, or image identifies the victim.

450 2. Criminal investigative information and criminal intelligence information made
451 confidential and exempt under this paragraph may be disclosed by a law enforcement agency:

452 a. In the furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities.

453 b. For print, publication, or broadcast if the law enforcement agency determines that such
454 release would assist in locating or identifying a person that such agency believes to be missing or
455 endangered. The information provided should be limited to that needed to identify or locate the
456 victim and not include the sexual nature of the offense committed against the person.

457 c. To another governmental agency in the furtherance of its official duties and
458 responsibilities.

459 3. This exemption applies to such confidential and exempt criminal intelligence
460 information or criminal investigative information held by a law enforcement agency before, on,
461 or after the effective date of the exemption.

462 4. This paragraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

463 (i) Any criminal intelligence information or criminal investigative information that
464 reveals the personal assets of the victim of a crime, other than property stolen or destroyed
465 during the commission of the crime, is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

466 (j)1. Any document that reveals the identity, home or employment telephone number,
467 home or employment address, or personal assets of the victim of a crime and identifies that
468 person as the victim of a crime, which document is received by any agency that regularly
469 receives information from or concerning the victims of crime, is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). Any
470 information not otherwise held confidential or exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) which reveals the home

471 or employment telephone number, home or employment address, or personal assets of a person
472 who has been the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking,
473 harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1), upon written
474 request by the victim, which must include official verification that an applicable crime has
475 occurred. Such information shall cease to be exempt 5 years after the receipt of the written
476 request. Any state or federal agency that is authorized to have access to such documents by any
477 provision of law shall be granted such access in the furtherance of such agency's statutory duties,
478 notwithstanding this section.

479 2. a. Any information in a videotaped statement of a minor who is alleged to be or who
480 is a victim of sexual battery, lewd acts, or other sexual misconduct, which reveals that minor's
481 identity, including, but not limited to, the minor's face; the minor's home, school, church, or
482 employment telephone number; the minor's home, school, church, or employment address; the
483 name of the minor's school, church, or place of employment; or the personal assets of the minor;
484 and which identifies that minor as the victim of a crime described in this subparagraph, held by a
485 law enforcement agency, is confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) . Any governmental
486 agency that is authorized to have access to such statements by any provision of law shall be
487 granted such access in the furtherance of the agency's statutory duties, notwithstanding the
488 provisions of this section.

489 b. A public employee or officer who has access to a videotaped statement of a minor
490 who is alleged to be or who is a victim of sexual battery, lewd acts, or other sexual misconduct
491 may not willfully and knowingly disclose videotaped information that reveals the minor's
492 identity to a person who is not assisting in the investigation or prosecution of the alleged offense
493 or to any person other than the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or a person specified in an

494 order entered by the court having jurisdiction of the alleged offense. A person who violates this
495 provision commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by law.

496 (3) SECURITY

497 (a)1. As used in this paragraph, the term "security system plan" includes all:

498 a. Records, information, photographs, audio and visual presentations, schematic
499 diagrams, surveys, recommendations, or consultations or portions thereof relating directly to
500 the physical security of the facility or revealing security systems;

501 b. Threat assessments conducted by any agency or any private entity;

502 c. Threat response plans;

503 d. Emergency evacuation plans;

504 e. Sheltering arrangements; or

505 f. Manuals for security personnel, emergency equipment, or security training.

506 2. A security system plan or portion thereof for:

507 Any property owned by or leased to the state or any of its political subdivisions; or

508 b. Any privately owned or leased property held by an agency is confidential and exempt
509 from c. 66 § 4(1). This exemption is remedial in nature, and it is the intent of the Legislature that
510 this exemption apply to security system plans held by an agency before, on, or after the effective
511 date of this paragraph.

512 3. Information made confidential and exempt by this paragraph may be disclosed by the
513 custodian of public records to:

514 a. The property owner or leaseholder; or

515 b. Another state or federal agency to prevent, detect, guard against, respond to,
516 investigate, or manage the consequences of any attempted or actual act of terrorism, or to
517 prosecute those persons who are responsible for such attempts or acts.

518 (b)1. Building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft,
519 preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout and structural elements of a
520 building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by an
521 agency are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

522 2. This exemption applies to building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and
523 diagrams, including draft, preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout and
524 structural elements of a building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure
525 owned or operated by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this act.

526 3. Information made exempt by this paragraph may be disclosed:

527 a. To another governmental entity if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to
528 perform its duties and responsibilities;

529 b. To a licensed architect, engineer, or contractor who is performing work on or related to
530 the building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by an
531 agency; or

532 c. Upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction.

533 4. The entities or persons receiving such information shall maintain the exempt status of
534 the information.

535 (c) Building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft,
536 preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout or structural elements of an
537 attractions and recreation facility, entertainment or resort complex, industrial complex, retail and
538 service development, office development, or hotel or motel development, which documents are
539 held by an agency are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This
540 exemption applies to any such documents held by an agency before, on, or after the effective
541 date of this act. Information made exempt by this paragraph may be disclosed to another
542 governmental entity if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to perform its duties and
543 responsibilities; to the owner or owners of the structure in question or the owner's legal
544 representative; or upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction. As
545 used in this paragraph, the term:

546 1. "Attractions and recreation facility" means any sports, entertainment, amusement, or
547 recreation facility, including, but not limited to, a sports arena, stadium, racetrack, tourist
548 attraction, amusement park, or pari-mutuel facility that:

549 a. For single-performance facilities:

550 (I) Provides single-performance facilities; or

551 (II) Provides more than 10,000 permanent seats for spectators.

552 b. For serial-performance facilities:

553 (I) Provides parking spaces for more than 1,000 motor vehicles; or

554 (II) Provides more than 4,000 permanent seats for spectators.

555 2. "Entertainment or resort complex" means a theme park comprised of at least 25 acres
556 of land with permanent exhibitions and a variety of recreational activities, which has at least 1
557 million visitors annually who pay admission fees thereto, together with any lodging, dining, and
558 recreational facilities located adjacent to, contiguous to, or in close proximity to the theme park,
559 as long as the owners or operators of the theme park, or a parent or related company or
560 subsidiary thereof, has an equity interest in the lodging, dining, or recreational facilities or is in
561 proximity therewith. Close proximity includes an area within a 5-mile radius of the theme park
562 complex.

563 3. "Industrial complex" means any industrial, manufacturing, processing, distribution,
564 warehousing, or wholesale facility or plant, as well as accessory uses and structures, under
565 common ownership which:

566 a. Provides onsite parking for more than 250 motor vehicles;

567 b. Encompasses 500,000 square feet or more of gross floor area; or

568 c. Occupies a site of 100 acres or more, but excluding wholesale facilities or plants that
569 primarily serve or deal onsite with the general public.

570 4. "Retail and service development" means any retail, service, or wholesale business
571 establishment or group of establishments which deals primarily with the general public onsite
572 and is operated under one common property ownership, development plan, or management that:

573 a. Encompasses more than 400,000 square feet of gross floor area; or

574 b. Provides parking spaces for more than 2,500 motor vehicles.

575 5. "Office development" means any office building or park operated under common
576 ownership, development plan, or management that encompasses 300,000 or more square feet of
577 gross floor area.

578 6. "Hotel or motel development" means any hotel or motel development that
579 accommodates 350 or more units. This exemption does not apply to comprehensive plans or site
580 plans, or amendments thereto, which are submitted for approval or which have been approved
581 under local land development regulations, local zoning regulations, or development-of-regional-
582 impact review.

583 (4) AGENCY PERSONNEL INFORMATION

584 (a)1. The social security numbers of all current and former agency employees which
585 numbers are contained in agency employment records are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

586 2. An agency that is the custodian of a social security number specified in subparagraph
587 1, and that is not the employing agency shall maintain the exempt status of the social security
588 number only if the employee or the employing agency of the employee submits a written request
589 for confidentiality to the custodial agency. However, upon a request by a commercial entity as
590 provided in sub-subparagraph (5)(a)7.b., the custodial agency shall release the last four digits of
591 the exempt social security number, except that a social security number provided in a lien filed
592 with the Department of State shall be released in its entirety. This subparagraph is subject to the
593 Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

594 (b) Medical information pertaining to a prospective, current, or former officer or
595 employee of an agency which, if disclosed, would identify that officer or employee is exempt
596 from c. 66 § 4(1). However, such information may be disclosed if the person to whom the

597 information pertains or the person's legal representative provides written permission or pursuant
598 to court order.

599 (c) Any information revealing undercover personnel of any criminal justice agency is
600 exempt

601 from c. 66 § 4(1).

602 (d)1.a. The home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and
603 photographs of active or former law enforcement personnel, including correctional and
604 correctional probation officers, personnel of the Department of Children and Family Services
605 whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other
606 criminal activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the
607 investigation of child abuse or neglect, and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local
608 governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support
609 enforcement; the home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, photographs, and
610 places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and
611 locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt
612 from c. 66 § 4(1). The home addresses, telephone numbers, and photographs of firefighters; the
613 home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and
614 children of such firefighters; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities
615 attended by the children of such firefighters are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). The home addresses
616 and telephone numbers of justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court, Superior
617 Courts, District Courts, Boston Municipal Court, Family and Probate Courts, Land Courts,
618 Housing Courts, justices and judges; the home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of

619 employment of the spouses and children of justices and judges; and the names and locations of
620 schools and day care facilities attended by the children of justices and judges are exempt from c.
621 66 § 4(1). The home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and photographs of
622 current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant
623 statewide prosecutors; the home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers,
624 photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former state
625 attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors; and
626 the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or
627 former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide
628 prosecutors are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

629 The home addresses and telephone numbers of general magistrates, special magistrates,
630 judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Workmens
631 Compensation Board, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, and child support
632 enforcement hearing officers; the home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment
633 of the spouses and children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation
634 claims, administrative law judges of the Workmens Compensation Board, and child support
635 enforcement hearing officers; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities
636 attended by the children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation
637 claims, administrative law judges of the Workmens Compensation Board, and child support
638 enforcement hearing officers are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) if the general magistrate, special
639 magistrate, judge of compensation claims, administrative law judge of the Workmens
640 Compensation Board, or child support hearing officer provides a written statement that the
641 general magistrate, special magistrate, judge of compensation claims, administrative law judge of

642 the Workmens Compensation Board, Massachusetts Commission of Discrimination, or child
643 support hearing officer has made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being
644 accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the
645 Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

646 2. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and photographs of current or former human
647 resource, labor relations, or employee relations directors, assistant directors, managers, or
648 assistant managers of any local government agency or water management district whose duties
649 include hiring and firing employees, labor contract negotiation, administration, or other
650 personnel-related duties; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of
651 employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of
652 schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from c. 66 §
653 4(1).

654 3. The home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and photographs of
655 current or former United States attorneys and assistant United States attorneys; the home
656 addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, photographs, and places of employment
657 of the spouses and children of current or former United States attorneys and assistant United
658 States attorneys; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
659 children of current or former United States attorneys and assistant United States attorneys are
660 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). This subparagraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance
661 with c. 66 §16. .

662 4. The home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and photographs of
663 current or former judges of United States Courts of Appeal, United States district judges, and

664 United States magistrate judges; the home addresses, telephone numbers, social security
665 numbers, photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or
666 former judges of United States Courts of Appeal, United States district judges, and United States
667 magistrate judges; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
668 children of current or former judges of United States Courts of Appeal, United States district
669 judges, and United States magistrate judges are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of
670 the State Constitution. This subparagraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance
671 with c. 66 § 16.

672 5. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and photographs of current or former code
673 enforcement officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment
674 of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day
675 care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

676 6. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, and photographs of
677 current or former guardians ad litem, and the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and
678 places of employment of the spouses and children of such persons, are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1),
679 if the guardian ad litem provides a written statement that the guardian ad litem has made
680 reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means
681 available to the public. This subparagraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance
682 with s. 66 § 16.

683 7. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and photographs of current or former
684 juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, detention superintendents, assistant
685 detention superintendents, senior juvenile detention officers, juvenile detention officer

686 supervisors, juvenile detention officers, house parents I and II, house parent supervisors, group
687 treatment leaders, group treatment leader supervisors, rehabilitation therapists, and social
688 services counselors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment
689 of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care
690 facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). This
691 subparagraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with s. 66 § 16.

692 8. An agency that is the custodian of the personal information specified in subparagraph
693 1., subparagraph 2., subparagraph 3., subparagraph 4., subparagraph 5., subparagraph 6., or
694 subparagraph 7, and that is not the employer of the officer, employee, justice, judge, or other
695 person specified in subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., subparagraph 3., subparagraph 4.,
696 subparagraph 5., subparagraph 6., or subparagraph 7. shall maintain the exempt status of the
697 personal information only if the officer, employee, justice, judge, other person, or employing
698 agency of the designated employee submits a written request for maintenance of the exemption
699 to the custodial agency.

700 (5) OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION

701 (a)1.a. The Legislature acknowledges that the social security number was never intended
702 to be used for business purposes but was intended to be used solely for the administration of the
703 federal Social Security System. The Legislature is further aware that over time this unique
704 numeric identifier has been used extensively for identity verification purposes and other
705 legitimate consensual purposes.

706 b. The Legislature recognizes that the social security number can be used as a tool to
707 perpetuate fraud against an individual and to acquire sensitive personal, financial, medical, and

708 familial information, the release of which could cause great financial or personal harm to an
709 individual.

710 c. The Legislature intends to monitor the use of social security numbers held by agencies
711 in order to maintain a balanced public policy.

712 2.a. An agency may not collect an individual's social security number unless the agency
713 has stated in writing the purpose for its collection and unless it is:

714 (I) Specifically authorized by law to do so; or

715 (II) Imperative for the performance of that agency's duties and responsibilities as
716 prescribed by law.

717 b. Social security numbers collected by an agency may not be used by that agency for any
718 purpose other than the purpose provided in the written statement.

719 3. An agency collecting an individual's social security number shall provide that
720 individual with a copy of the written statement required in subparagraph 2.

721 4.a. Each agency shall review whether its collection of social security numbers is in
722 compliance with subparagraph 2. If the agency determines that collection of a social security
723 number is not in compliance with subparagraph 2., the agency shall immediately discontinue the
724 collection of social security numbers for that purpose.

725 b. Each agency shall certify to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
726 of Representatives its compliance with this subparagraph no later than January 31, 2008.

727 5. Social security numbers held by an agency are confidential and exempt from c. 66 §
728 4(1). This exemption applies to social security numbers held by an agency before, on, or after the
729 effective date of this exemption.

730 6. Social security numbers may be disclosed to another agency or governmental entity if
731 disclosure is necessary for the receiving agency or entity to perform its duties and
732 responsibilities.

733 7.a. For purposes of this subsection, the term:

734 (I) "Commercial activity" means the provision of a lawful product or service by a
735 commercial entity. Commercial activity includes verification of the accuracy of personal
736 information received by a commercial entity in the normal course of its business; use for
737 insurance purposes; use in identifying and preventing fraud; use in matching, verifying, or
738 retrieving information; and use in research activities. It does not include the display or bulk sale
739 of social security numbers to the public or the distribution of such numbers to any customer that
740 is not identifiable by the commercial entity.

741 (II) "Commercial entity" means any corporation, partnership, limited partnership,
742 proprietorship, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, or association that performs a
743 commercial activity in this state.

744 b. An agency may not deny a commercial entity engaged in the performance of a
745 commercial activity access to social security numbers, provided the social security numbers will
746 be used only in the performance of a commercial activity and provided the commercial entity
747 makes a written request for the social security numbers. The written request must:

748 (I) Be verified

749 Under oath or affirmation taken or administered before an officer authorized under s.

750 92.50 to administer oaths; or

751 (b) By the signing of the written declaration prescribed in subsection (2).

752 (2) A written declaration means the following statement: "Under penalties of perjury, I
753 declare that I have read the foregoing [document] and that the facts stated in it are true,"
754 followed by the signature of the person making the declaration, except when a verification on
755 information or belief is permitted by law, in which case the words "to the best of my knowledge
756 and belief" may be added. The written declaration shall be printed or typed at the end of or
757 immediately below the document being verified and above the signature of the person making
758 the declaration.

759 (3) A person who knowingly makes a false declaration under subsection (2) is guilty of
760 the crime of perjury by false written declaration, a felony of the third degree, punishable by law

761 (II) Be legibly signed by an authorized officer, employee, or agent of the commercial
762 entity;

763 (III) Contain the commercial entity's name, business mailing and location addresses, and
764 business telephone number; and

765 (IV) Contain a statement of the specific purposes for which it needs the social security
766 numbers and how the social security numbers will be used in the performance of a commercial
767 activity. The aggregate of these requests shall serve as the basis for the agency report required in
768 subparagraph 9.

769 c. An agency may request any other information reasonably necessary to verify the
770 identity of a commercial entity requesting the social security numbers and the specific purposes
771 for which the numbers will be used.

772 8.a. Any person who makes a false representation in order to obtain a social security
773 number pursuant to this paragraph, or any person who willfully and knowingly violates this
774 paragraph, commits a felony of the third degree punishable by law.

775 b. Any public officer who violates this paragraph commits a noncriminal infraction,
776 punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 per violation.

777 9.a. Every agency shall file a report with the Executive Office of the Governor, the
778 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 31 of each
779 year.

780 b. The report required under sub-subparagraph a. shall list:

781 (I) The identity of all commercial entities that have requested social security numbers
782 during the preceding calendar year; and

783 (II) The specific purpose or purposes stated by each commercial entity regarding its need
784 for social security numbers.

785 c. If no disclosure requests were made, the agency shall so indicate.

786 10. Any affected person may petition the circuit court for an order directing compliance
787 with this paragraph.

788 11. This paragraph does not supersede any other applicable public records exemptions
789 existing prior to May 13, 2002, or created thereafter.

790 (b) Bank account numbers and debit, charge, and credit card numbers held by an agency
791 are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). This exemption applies to bank account numbers and debit, charge,
792 and credit card numbers held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this
793 exemption.

794 (c) Any information that would identify or help to locate a child who participates in
795 government-sponsored recreation programs or camps or the parents or guardians of such child,
796 including, but not limited to, the name, home address, telephone number, social security number,
797 or photograph of the child; the names and locations of schools attended by such child; and the
798 names, home addresses, and social security numbers of parents or guardians of such child is
799 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). Information made exempt pursuant to this paragraph may be disclosed
800 by court order upon a showing of good cause. This exemption applies to records held before, on,
801 or after the effective date of this exemption.

802 (d) All records supplied by a telecommunications company, to an agency which contain
803 the name, address, and telephone number of subscribers are confidential and exempt from c. 66 §
804 4(1).

805 (e) Any information provided to an agency for the purpose of forming ridesharing
806 arrangements, which information reveals the identity of an individual who has provided his or
807 her name for ridesharing, is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

808 (f) Medical history records and information related to health or property insurance
809 provided to a state agency, a municipality, or a local housing finance agency by an applicant for

810 or a participant in a federal, state, or local housing assistance program are confidential and
811 exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). Governmental entities or their agents shall have access to such
812 confidential and exempt records and information for the purpose of auditing federal, state, or
813 local housing programs or housing assistance programs. Such confidential and exempt records
814 and information may be used in any administrative or judicial proceeding, provided such records
815 are kept confidential and exempt unless otherwise ordered by a court.

816 (g)1. Biometric identification information held by an agency before, on, or after the
817 effective date of this exemption is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1). As used in this paragraph, the term
818 "biometric identification information" means:

819 a. Any record of friction ridge detail;

820 b. Fingerprints;

821 c. Palm prints; and

822 d. Footprints.

823 2. This paragraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

824 (h)1. Personal identifying information of an applicant for or a recipient of paratransit
825 services which is held by an agency is confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).

826 2. This exemption applies to personal identifying information of an applicant for or a
827 recipient of paratransit services which is held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date
828 of this exemption.

829 3. Confidential and exempt personal identifying information shall be disclosed:

830 a. With the express written consent of the individual or the individual's legally authorized
831 representative;

832 b. In a medical emergency, but only to the extent that is necessary to protect the health or
833 life of the individual;

834 c. By court order upon a showing of good cause; or

835 d. To another agency in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

836 4. This paragraph is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

837 66 § 6 Executive branch agency exemptions from inspection or copying of public records

838 When an agency of the executive branch of state government seeks to acquire real
839 property by purchase or through the exercise of the power of eminent domain, all appraisals,
840 other reports relating to value, offers, and counteroffers must be in writing and are exempt from
841 c. 66 § 4(1) until execution of a valid option contract or a written offer to sell that has been
842 conditionally accepted by the agency, at which time the exemption shall expire. The agency shall
843 not finally accept the offer for a period of 30 days in order to allow public review of the
844 transaction. The agency may give conditional acceptance to any option or offer subject only to
845 final acceptance by the agency after the 30-day review period. If a valid option contract is not
846 executed, or if a written offer to sell is not conditionally accepted by the agency, then the
847 exemption shall expire at the conclusion of the condemnation litigation of the subject property.

848 An agency of the executive branch may exempt title information, including names and addresses
849 of property owners whose property is subject to acquisition by purchase or through the exercise
850 of the power of eminent domain, from c. 66 § 4(1) to the same extent as appraisals, other reports

851 relating to value, offers, and counteroffers. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "option
852 contract" means an agreement of an agency of the executive branch of state government to
853 purchase real property subject to final agency approval. This subsection has no application to
854 other exemptions from c. 66 § 4(1) which are contained in other provisions of law and shall not
855 be construed to be an express or implied repeal thereof.

856 66 § 7 Executive branch agency-specific exemptions from inspection or copying of
857 public records

858 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

859 All personal identifying information contained in records relating to an individual's
860 personal health or eligibility for health-related services held by the Department of Health is
861 confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1), except as otherwise provided in this subsection.
862 Information made confidential and exempt by this subsection shall be disclosed:

863 (a) With the express written consent of the individual or the individual's legally
864 authorized representative.

865 (b) In a medical emergency, but only to the extent necessary to protect the health or life
866 of the individual.

867 (c) By court order upon a showing of good cause.

868 (d) To a health research entity, if the entity seeks the records or data pursuant to a
869 research protocol approved by the department, maintains the records or data in accordance with
870 the approved protocol, and enters into a purchase and data-use agreement with the department,
871 the fee provisions of which are consistent with c. 66 § 4(4). The department may deny a request

872 for records or data if the protocol provides for intrusive follow-back contacts, has not been
873 approved by a human studies institutional review board, does not plan for the destruction of
874 confidential records after the research is concluded, is administratively burdensome, or does not
875 have scientific merit. The agreement must restrict the release of any information that would
876 permit the identification of persons, limit the use of records or data to the approved research
877 protocol, and prohibit any other use of the records or data. Copies of records or data issued
878 pursuant to this paragraph remain the property of the department.

879 (2) DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

880 (a) Personal information contained in a motor vehicle record that identifies an individual
881 is confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) except as provided in this subsection. Personal
882 information includes, but is not limited to, an individual's social security number, driver
883 identification number or identification card number, name, address, telephone number, medical
884 or disability information, and emergency contact information. For purposes of this subsection,
885 personal information does not include information relating to vehicular crashes, driving
886 violations, and driver's status. For purposes of this subsection, the term "motor vehicle record"
887 means any record that pertains to a motor vehicle operator's permit, motor vehicle title, motor
888 vehicle registration, or identification card issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

889 (b) Personal information contained in motor vehicle records made confidential and
890 exempt by this subsection may be released by the department for any of the following uses:

891 1. For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor
892 vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance
893 monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers; and removal of

894 nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers, to carry out
895 the purposes of Titles I and IV of the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992, the Automobile Information
896 Disclosure Act (15 U.S.C. ss. 1231 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. ss. 7401 et seq.), and
897 chapters 301, 305, and 321-331 of Title 49, United States Code.

898 2. For use by any government agency, including any court or law enforcement agency, in
899 carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal, state, or
900 local agency in carrying out its functions.

901 3. For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor
902 vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance
903 monitoring of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts, and dealers; motor vehicle market research
904 activities, including survey research; and removal of nonowner records from the original owner
905 records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

906 4. For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents,
907 employees, or contractors, but only:

908 a. To verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the
909 business or its agents, employees, or contractors; and

910 b. If such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the
911 correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by, pursuing legal remedies
912 against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against, the individual.

913 5. For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitral proceeding in
914 any court or agency or before any self-regulatory body for:

- 915 a. Service of process by any certified process server, special process server, or other
916 person authorized to serve process in this state.
- 917 b. Investigation in anticipation of litigation by an attorney licensed to practice law in this
918 state or the agent of the attorney; however, the information may not be used for mass commercial
919 solicitation of clients for litigation against motor vehicle dealers.
- 920 c. Investigation by any person in connection with any filed proceeding; however, the
921 information may not be used for mass commercial solicitation of clients for litigation against
922 motor vehicle dealers.
- 923 d. Execution or enforcement of judgments and orders.
- 924 e. Compliance with an order of any court.
- 925 6. For use in research activities and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the
926 personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals.
- 927 7. For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or
928 its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, anti-
929 fraud activities, rating, or underwriting.
- 930 8. For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.
- 931 9. For use by any licensed private investigative agency or licensed security service for
932 any purpose permitted under this subsection. Personal information obtained based on an exempt
933 driver's record may not be provided to a client who cannot demonstrate a need based on a police
934 report, court order, or business or personal relationship with the subject of the investigation.

935 10. For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating
936 to a holder of a commercial driver's license that is required under 49 U.S.C. ss. 31301 et seq.

937 11. For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.

938 12. For bulk distribution for surveys, marketing, or solicitations when the department has
939 obtained the express consent of the person to whom such personal information pertains.

940 13. For any use if the requesting person demonstrates that he or she has obtained the
941 written consent of the person who is the subject of the motor vehicle record.

942 14. For any other use specifically authorized by state law, if such use is related to the
943 operation of a motor vehicle or public safety.

944 15. For any other use if the person to whom the information pertains has given express
945 consent in a format prescribed by the department. Such consent shall remain in effect until it is
946 revoked by the person on a form prescribed by the department.

947 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), without the express consent of the person to whom
948 such information applies, the following information contained in motor vehicle records may only
949 be released as specified in this paragraph:

950 1. Social security numbers may be released only as provided in subparagraphs (b)2., 5.,
951 7., and 10.

952 2. An individual's photograph or image may be released only for state departmental
953 administrative purposes; for the issuance of duplicate licenses; in response to law enforcement
954 agency requests; to the Registry of Motor Vehicles pursuant to an interagency agreement to
955 facilitate determinations of eligibility of voter registration applicants and registered voters in

956 accordance; to the Department of Revenue pursuant to an interagency agreement for use in
957 establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, or enforcing support obligations in Title IV-D
958 cases; to the Department of Social Services pursuant to an interagency agreement to conduct
959 protective investigations; or to the Office of the State Treasurer, pursuant to an interagency
960 agreement to facilitate the location of owners of unclaimed property, the validation of unclaimed
961 property claims, and the identification of fraudulent or false claims.

962 3. Medical disability information is exempt from disclosure.

963 4. Emergency contact information may be released only to law enforcement agencies for
964 purposes of contacting those listed in the event of an emergency.

965 (d) The restrictions on disclosure of personal information provided by this subsection
966 shall not in any way affect the use of organ donation information on individual driver licenses or
967 affect the administration of organ donation initiatives in this state.

968 (e)1. Personal information made confidential and exempt may be disclosed by the
969 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to an individual, firm, corporation, or similar
970 business entity whose primary business interest is to resell or redisclose the personal information
971 to persons who are authorized to receive such information. Prior to the department's disclosure of
972 personal information, such individual, firm, corporation, or similar business entity must first
973 enter into a contract with the department regarding the care, custody, and control of the personal
974 information to ensure compliance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 and
975 applicable state laws.

976 2. An authorized recipient of personal information contained in a motor vehicle record,
977 except a recipient under subparagraph (b)12., may contract with the Department of Highway

978 Safety and Motor Vehicles to resell or redisclose the information for any use permitted under this
979 section. However, only authorized recipients of personal information under subparagraph (b)12
980 may resell or redisclose personal information pursuant to subparagraph (b)12.

981 3. Any authorized recipient who resells or rediscloses personal information shall
982 maintain, for a period of 5 years, records identifying each person or entity that receives the
983 personal information and the permitted purpose for which it will be used. Such records shall be
984 made available for inspection upon request by the department.

985 (f) The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this subsection and the
986 federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq. Rules adopted by the
987 department may provide for the payment of applicable fees and, prior to the disclosure of
988 personal information pursuant to this subsection, may require the meeting of conditions by the
989 requesting person for the purposes of obtaining reasonable assurance concerning the identity of
990 such requesting person, and, to the extent required, assurance that the use will be only as
991 authorized or that the consent of the person who is the subject of the personal information has
992 been obtained. Such conditions may include, but need not be limited to, the making and filing of
993 a written application in such form and containing such information and certification requirements
994 as the department requires.

995 (g) This subsection is subject to the Public Record Law in accordance with c. 66 § 16.

996 66 § 8 Local government agency exemptions from inspection or copying of public
997 records

998 (1) All complaints and other records in the custody of any unit of local government which
999 relate to a complaint of discrimination relating to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age,

1000 handicap, marital status, sale or rental of housing, the provision of brokerage services, or the
1001 financing of housing are exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) until a finding is made relating to probable
1002 cause, the investigation of the complaint becomes inactive, or the complaint or other record is
1003 made part of the official record of any hearing or court proceeding. This provision shall not
1004 affect any function or activity of any state or federal agency that is authorized to have access to
1005 such complaints or records by any provision of law shall be granted such access in the
1006 furtherance of such agency's statutory duties. This subsection shall not be construed to modify or
1007 repeal any special or local act.

1008 (2) The audit report of an internal auditor prepared for or on behalf of a unit of local
1009 government becomes a public record when the audit becomes final. As used in this subsection,
1010 the term "unit of local government" means a county, municipality, special district, local agency,
1011 authority, consolidated city-county government, or any other local governmental body or public
1012 body corporate or politic authorized or created by general or special law. An audit becomes final
1013 when the audit report is presented to the unit of local government. Audit workpapers and notes
1014 related to such audit report are confidential and exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) until the audit is
1015 completed and the audit report becomes final.

1016 (3) Any data, record, or document used directly or solely by a municipally owned utility
1017 to prepare and submit a bid relative to the sale, distribution, or use of any service, commodity, or
1018 tangible personal property to any customer or prospective customer is exempt from c. 66 § 4(1).
1019 This exemption commences when a municipal utility identifies in writing a specific bid to which
1020 it intends to respond. This exemption no longer applies when the contract for sale, distribution,
1021 or use of the service, commodity, or tangible personal property is executed, a decision is made
1022 not to execute such contract, or the project is no longer under active consideration. The

1023 exemption in this subsection includes the bid documents actually furnished in response to the
1024 request for bids. However, the exemption for the bid documents submitted no longer applies after
1025 the bids are opened by the customer or prospective customer.

1026 66 § 9 Court files; court records; official records

1027 COURT FILES

1028 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt from c. 66 § 4(1) a public record that
1029 was made a part of a court file and that is not specifically closed by order of court, except:

1030 (a) A public record that was prepared by an agency attorney or prepared at the attorney's
1031 express direction as provided in c. 66 § 5(1)(d).

1032 (b) Data processing software as provided in c. 66 § 5(1)(f).

1033 (c) Any information revealing surveillance techniques or procedures or personnel as
1034 provided in c. 66 § 5(2)(d).

1035 (d) Any comprehensive inventory of state and local law enforcement resources, and any
1036 comprehensive policies or plans compiled by a criminal justice agency, as provided in c. 66 §
1037 5(2)(d).

1038 (e) Any information revealing the substance of a confession of a person arrested as
1039 provided in c. 66 § 5(2)(e).

1040 (f) Any information revealing the identity of a confidential informant or confidential
1041 source as provided in c. 66 § 5(2)(f).

1042 (g) Any information revealing undercover personnel of any criminal justice agency as
1043 provided in c. 66 § 5(4)(c).

1044 (h) Criminal intelligence information or criminal investigative information that is
1045 confidential and exempt as provided in c. 66 § 5(2)(h).

1046 (i) Social security numbers as provided in c. 66 § 5(5)(a).

1047 (j) Bank account numbers and debit, charge, and credit card numbers as provided in c. 66
1048 § 5(5)(b).

1049 (2) COURT RECORDS

1050 (a) Until January 1, 2011, if a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or
1051 credit card number is included in a court file, such number may be included as part of the court
1052 record available for public inspection and copying unless redaction is requested by the holder of
1053 such number or by the holder's attorney or legal guardian.

1054 (b) A request for redaction must be a signed, legibly written request specifying the case
1055 name, case number, document heading, and page number. The request must be delivered by
1056 mail, facsimile, electronic transmission, or in person to the clerk of the court. The clerk of the
1057 court does not have a duty to inquire beyond the written request to verify the identity of a person
1058 requesting redaction.

1059 (c) A fee may not be charged for the redaction of a social security number or a bank
1060 account, debit, charge, or credit card number pursuant to such request.

1061 (d) The clerk of the court has no liability for the inadvertent release of social security
1062 numbers, or bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers, unknown to the clerk of the
1063 court in court records filed on or before January 1, 2011.

1064 (e)1. On January 1, 2011, and thereafter, the clerk of the court must keep social security
1065 numbers confidential and exempt as provided for in c. 66 § 5(5)(a), and bank account, debit,
1066 charge, and credit card numbers exempt as provided for in c. 66 § 5(5)(b), without any person
1067 having to request redaction.

1068 2. Section 66 § 5(5)(a)7 and 8 does not apply to the clerks of the court with respect to
1069 court records.

1070 (3) OFFICIAL RECORDS

1071 (a) Any person who prepares or files a record for recording in the official records may not
1072 include in that record a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card
1073 number unless otherwise expressly required by law.

1074 (b)1. If a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number is
1075 included in an official record, such number may be made available as part of the official records
1076 available for public inspection and copying unless redaction is requested by the holder of such
1077 number or by the holder's attorney or legal guardian.

1078 2. If such record is in electronic format, on January 1, 2011, and thereafter, the county
1079 recorder must use his or her best effort, as provided in paragraph (h), to keep social security
1080 numbers confidential and exempt as provided for in c. 66 § 5(5)(a), and to keep complete bank

1081 account, debit, charge, and credit card numbers exempt as provided for in c. 66 § 5(5)(b),
1082 without any person having to request redaction.

1083 3. Section 66 § 5(5)(a)7 and 8 does not apply to the county recorder with respect to
1084 official records.

1085 (c) The holder of a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card
1086 number, or the holder's attorney or legal guardian, may request that a county recorder redact
1087 from an image or copy of an official record placed on a county recorder's publicly available
1088 Internet website or on a publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to display
1089 public records, or otherwise made electronically available to the public, his or her social security
1090 number or bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number contained in that official record.

1091 (d) A request for redaction must be a signed, legibly written request and must be
1092 delivered by mail, facsimile, electronic transmission, or in person to the county recorder. The
1093 request must specify the identification page number of the record that contains the number to be
1094 redacted.

1095 (e) The county recorder does not have a duty to inquire beyond the written request to
1096 verify the identity of a person requesting redaction.

1097 (f) A fee may not be charged for redacting a social security number or a bank account,
1098 debit, charge, or credit card number.

1099 (g) A county recorder shall immediately and conspicuously post signs throughout his or
1100 her offices for public viewing, and shall immediately and conspicuously post on any Internet
1101 website or remote electronic site made available by the county recorder and used for the ordering

1102 or display of official records or images or copies of official records, a notice stating, in
1103 substantially similar form, the following:

1104 1. On or after October 1, 2002, any person preparing or filing a record for recordation in
1105 the official records may not include a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or
1106 credit card number in such document unless required by law.

1107 2. Any person has a right to request a county recorder to remove from an image or copy
1108 of an official record placed on a county recorder's publicly available Internet website or on a
1109 publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to display public records, or
1110 otherwise made electronically available to the general public, any social security number
1111 contained in an official record. Such request must be made in writing and delivered by mail,
1112 facsimile, or electronic transmission, or delivered in person, to the county recorder. The request
1113 must specify the identification page number that contains the social security number to be
1114 redacted. A fee may not be charged for the redaction of a social security number pursuant to such
1115 a request.

1116 (h) If the county recorder accepts or stores official records in an electronic format, the
1117 county recorder must use his or her best efforts to redact all social security numbers and bank
1118 account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers from electronic copies of the official record. The
1119 use of an automated program for redaction shall be deemed to be the best effort in performing
1120 the redaction and shall be deemed in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

1121 (i) The county recorder is not liable for the inadvertent release of social security numbers,
1122 or bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers, filed with the county recorder.

1123 66 § 10 Copyright of data processing software created by governmental agencies; sale
1124 price and licensing fee

1125 (1) As used in this section, "agency" has the same meaning as in c. 66 § 2(2), except that
1126 the term does not include any private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity.

1127 (2) An agency is authorized to acquire and hold a copyright for data processing software
1128 created by the agency and to enforce its rights pertaining to such copyright, provided that the
1129 agency complies with the requirements of this subsection.

1130 (a) An agency that has acquired a copyright for data processing software created by the
1131 agency may sell or license the copyrighted data processing software to any public agency or
1132 private person. The agency may establish a price for the sale and a licensing fee for the use of
1133 such data processing software that may be based on market considerations. However, the prices
1134 or fees for the sale or licensing of copyrighted data processing software to an individual or entity
1135 solely for application to information maintained or generated by the agency that created the
1136 copyrighted data processing software shall be determined pursuant to c. 66 § 4(4).

1137 (b) Proceeds from the sale or licensing of copyrighted data processing software shall be
1138 deposited by the agency into a trust fund for the agency's appropriate use for authorized
1139 purposes. Counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of the state may designate
1140 how such sale and licensing proceeds are to be used.

1141 (c) The provisions of this subsection are supplemental to, and shall not supplant or repeal,
1142 any other provision of law that authorizes an agency to acquire and hold copyrights.

1143 66 § 11 Registration by federal employer's registration number

1144 Each state agency which registers or licenses corporations, partnerships, or other business
1145 entities shall include, by July 1, 1978, within its numbering system, the federal employer's
1146 identification number of each corporation, partnership, or other business entity registered or
1147 licensed by it. Any state agency may maintain a dual numbering system in which the federal
1148 employer's identification number or the state agency's own number is the primary identification
1149 number; however, the records of such state agency shall be designed in such a way that the
1150 record of any business entity is subject to direct location by the federal employer's identification
1151 number. The Department of State shall keep a registry of federal employer's identification
1152 numbers of all business entities, registered with the Division of Corporations, which registry of
1153 numbers may be used by all state agencies.

1154 66 § 12 Violation of chapter; penalties

1155 (1) Any public officer who:

1156 (a) Violates any provision of this chapter commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable
1157 by fine not exceeding \$500.

1158 (b) Knowingly violates the provisions of c. 66 § 4(1) is subject to suspension and removal
1159 or impeachment and, in addition, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by law.

1160 (2) Any person who willfully and knowingly violates:

1161 (a) Any of the provisions of this chapter commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
1162 punishable by law.

1163 Section 66 § 13 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable by law.

1164 66 § 13 Protection of victims of crimes or accidents

1165 Police reports are public records except as otherwise made exempt or confidential. Every
1166 person is allowed to examine nonexempt or nonconfidential police reports. A person who comes
1167 into possession of exempt or confidential information contained in police reports may not use
1168 that information for any commercial solicitation of the victims or relatives of the victims of the
1169 reported crimes or accidents and may not knowingly disclose such information to any third party
1170 for the purpose of such solicitation during the period of time that information remains exempt or
1171 confidential. This section does not prohibit the publication of such information to the general
1172 public by any news media legally entitled to possess that information or the use of such
1173 information for any other data collection or analysis purposes by those entitled to possess that
1174 information.

1175 66 § 14 Accelerated hearing; immediate compliance

1176 (1) Whenever an action is filed to enforce the provisions of this chapter, the court shall
1177 set an immediate hearing, giving the case priority over other pending cases.

1178 (2) Whenever a court orders an agency to open its records for inspection in accordance
1179 with this chapter, the agency shall comply with such order within 48 hours, unless otherwise
1180 provided by the court issuing such order, or unless the appellate court issues a stay order within
1181 such 48-hour period.

1182 (3) A stay order shall not be issued unless the court determines that there is a substantial
1183 probability that opening the records for inspection will result in significant damage.

1184 (4) Upon service of a complaint, counterclaim, or cross-claim in a civil action brought to
1185 enforce the provisions of this chapter, the custodian of the public record that is the subject matter
1186 of such civil action shall not transfer custody, alter, destroy, or otherwise dispose of the public

1187 record sought to be inspected and examined, notwithstanding the applicability of an exemption
1188 or the assertion that the requested record is not a public record subject to inspection and
1189 examination under c. 66 § 4(1), until the court directs otherwise. The person who has custody of
1190 such public record may, however, at any time permit inspection of the requested record as
1191 provided in c. 66 § 4(1) and other provisions of law.

1192 66 § 15 Attorney's fees

1193 If a civil action is filed against an agency to enforce the provisions of this chapter and if
1194 the court determines that such agency unlawfully refused to permit a public record to be
1195 inspected or copied, the court shall assess and award, against the agency responsible, the
1196 reasonable costs of enforcement including reasonable attorneys' fees.

1197 66 § 16 Legislative review of exemptions from public meeting and public records
1198 requirements

1199 (1) This section may be cited as the "Public Record Law."

1200 (2) This section provides for the review and repeal or reenactment of an exemption from
1201 c. 66 § 4(1). This act does not apply to an exemption that:

1202 (a) Is required by federal law; or

1203 (b) Applies solely to the Legislature or the State Court System.

1204 (3) In the 5th year after enactment of a new exemption or substantial amendment of an
1205 existing exemption, the exemption shall be repealed on October 2nd of the 5th year, unless the
1206 Legislature acts to reenact the exemption.

1207 (4)(a) A law that enacts a new exemption or substantially amends an existing exemption
1208 must state that the record or meeting is:

1209 1. Exempt from the State Constitution;

1210 2. Exempt from c. 66 § 4(1); and

1211 3. Repealed at the end of 5 years and that the exemption must be reviewed by the
1212 Legislature before the scheduled repeal date.

1213 (b) For purposes of this section, an exemption is substantially amended if the amendment
1214 expands the scope of the exemption to include more records or information or to include
1215 meetings as well as records. An exemption is not substantially amended if the amendment
1216 narrows the scope of the exemption.

1217 (c) This section is not intended to repeal an exemption that has been amended following
1218 legislative review before the scheduled repeal of the exemption if the exemption is not
1219 substantially amended as a result of the review.

1220 (5)(a) As part of the review process, the Legislature shall consider the following:

1221 1. What specific records or meetings are affected by the exemption?

1222 2. Whom does the exemption uniquely affect, as opposed to the general public?

1223 3. What is the identifiable public purpose or goal of the exemption?

1224 4. Can the information contained in the records or discussed in the meeting be readily
1225 obtained by alternative means? If so, how?

1226 5. Is the record or meeting protected by another exemption?

1227 6. Are there multiple exemptions for the same type of record or meeting that it would be
1228 appropriate to merge?

1229 (b) An exemption may be created, revised, or maintained only if it serves an identifiable
1230 public purpose, and the exemption may be no broader than is necessary to meet the public
1231 purpose it serves. An identifiable public purpose is served if the exemption meets one of the
1232 following purposes and the Legislature finds that the purpose is sufficiently compelling to
1233 override the strong public policy of open government and cannot be accomplished without the
1234 exemption:

1235 1. Allows the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a
1236 governmental program, which administration would be significantly impaired without the
1237 exemption;

1238 2. Protects information of a sensitive personal nature concerning individuals, the release
1239 of which information would be defamatory to such individuals or cause unwarranted damage to
1240 the good name or reputation of such individuals or would jeopardize the safety of such
1241 individuals. However, in exemptions under this subparagraph, only information that would
1242 identify the individuals may be exempted; or

1243 3. Protects information of a confidential nature concerning entities, including, but not
1244 limited to, a formula, pattern, device, combination of devices, or compilation of information
1245 which is used to protect or further a business advantage over those who do not know or use it, the
1246 disclosure of which information would injure the affected entity in the marketplace.

1247 (6) Records made before the date of a repeal of an exemption under this section may not
1248 be made public unless otherwise provided by law. In deciding whether the records shall be made
1249 public, the Legislature shall consider whether the damage or loss to persons or entities uniquely
1250 affected by the exemption of the type specified in subparagraph (6)(b)2.or subparagraph (6)(b)3
1251 would occur if the records were made public.

1252 (7) Notwithstanding any other law, neither the state or its political subdivisions nor any
1253 other public body shall be made party to any suit in any court or incur any liability for the repeal
1254 or revival and reenactment of an exemption under this section. The failure of the Legislature to
1255 comply strictly with this section does not invalidate an otherwise valid reenactment.