

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 289

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

PUBLIC RECORDS. Provides for confidentiality of certain information in public records requests for universities. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 44:4(65) through (67), relative to public records; to provide for exemptions
3 to the public records law for certain university records; to provide for confidentiality
4 of applicants for certain executive-level university positions; to provide for the
5 privacy of university donors; to provide for the confidentiality of research and
6 proprietary information at universities; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 44:4(65) through (67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §4. Exemptions

10 This Chapter shall not apply:

11 * * *

12 **(65) To any record, including resumes, applications, and identifying**
13 **information, of an applicant for an executive position at a public postsecondary**
14 **education institution, including but not limited to presidents, chancellors, senior**
15 **vice chancellors, and athletic coaches. This exception shall expire once any**
16 **finalist for the position is approved by the governing board, at which point the**
17 **records of the finalist who applied for the position shall become public. This**

1 exemption shall continue for the records of any applicant who is not named a
 2 finalist for the position.

3 (66) To any record that identifies or could lead to the identification of a
 4 private donor or prospective donor to a public postsecondary education
 5 institution or its affiliated foundation, unless the donor provides written consent
 6 for disclosure. This shall not exempt records concerning the amount of a
 7 donation to a postsecondary education institution or its affiliated foundation or
 8 the specific use of donated public funds. Donor records maintained by a public
 9 postsecondary education institution's foundation that are confidential but are
 10 requested by the foundation's parent public postsecondary education institution
 11 shall remain confidential and shall remain exempt from disclosure under the
 12 Public Records Law.

13 (67) To records maintained by a public postsecondary education
 14 institution that contain proprietary research, unpublished data, grant
 15 applications, or information related to intellectual property (IP) and industry
 16 partnerships, where disclosure would reasonably result in a competitive
 17 disadvantage to the institution or its partners or could result in research being
 18 taken or used by a competitor. Once the research is published in a peer-
 19 reviewed journal, a patent is officially granted and published by the United
 20 States Patent and Trademark Office, the grant period has been completed, or
 21 the institution determines the information no longer meets the criteria to
 22 remain private; this exception shall expire and the records shall become public.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SB 289 Reengrossed

DIGEST
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Abraham

Present law provides exemptions to the Louisiana Public Records Law.

Proposed law creates an exemption for applicants to executive positions at public postsecondary education institutions.

Proposed law provides a sunset period for those records once a finalist for the job has been approved by the governing board.

Proposed law maintains an exemption for the records of applicants that are not named finalists of a job.

Proposed law creates an exemption for records that would identify a donor to a public postsecondary institution.

Proposed law provides an exception to the exemption that does not keep private the amount of money donated or where the donation is being used by the institution.

Proposed law maintains an exemption for a public postsecondary institution's foundation records that are received by the parent institution.

Proposed law provides an exemption for records maintained by a public postsecondary education institution that contain proprietary research, unpublished data, grant applications, or information related to intellectual property (IP) and industry partnerships.

Proposed law provides sunset provisions for various types of records in different situations.

Effective on August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 44.4(65)-(67))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Changes "executive level or high impact" language to "executive".
2. Removes "deans" from bill language.
3. Changes "a finalist" to "any finalist".

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds senior vice chancellors to list of positions.
2. Changes language from "officially named" to "approved".
3. Removes "and anyone else" from language of bill.
4. Clarifies that the exemption for public records shall continue for any applicant who is not named a finalist for the position.
5. Provides that donor records of a foundation of a postsecondary institution shall remain confidential and exempt from disclosure when that postsecondary institution receives those records.