
DIGEST

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Hazel

HB No. 44

Abstract: Provides an exception to confidentiality provisions of the Public Records Law to allow for disclosure of the home addresses of public employees who are members of the Firefighters' Retirement System, if requested by specified entities.

Present law (Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.) provides that all books, records, writings, accounts, letters and letter books, maps, drawings, photographs, cards, tapes, recordings, memoranda, and papers, and all copies, duplicates, photographs, including microfilm, or other reproductions thereof, or any other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, including information contained in electronic data processing equipment, having been used, being in use, or prepared, possessed, or retained for use in the conduct, transaction, or performance of any business, transaction, work, duty, or function which was conducted, transacted, or performed by or under the authority of the constitution or laws of the state, or by or under the authority of any ordinance, regulation, mandate, or order of any public body or concerning the receipt or payment of any money received or paid by or under the authority of the constitution or the laws of the state, are "public records". Establishes a framework for the ready availability of public records to requesting persons, and specifically provides that it is the duty of the custodian of the public records for a public entity or agency to provide copies to persons so requesting.

Present law provides for certain exceptions, exemptions, and limitations. Further specifies that any exception, exemption, and limitation to the laws pertaining to public records not provided for in the Public Records Law or in the constitution shall have no effect.

Present law (R.S. 44:11) provides relative to information in the personnel records of public employees. Provides that notwithstanding the Public Records Law, the home address of a public employee is confidential when the employee makes a request to that effect. Provides, however, that this confidentiality does not apply to the personnel records of a city or parish school board to the extent that the home address of any employee of a city or parish school board shall be made available to recognized educational groups.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that present law confidentiality concerning the home address of a public employee does not apply to the home address of a member of the Firefighters' Retirement System if requested by a member of the La. Legislature, an agency or employer reporting information to the system, or a recognized association of system members.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 44:11(E))