

2015 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 190

BY SENATORS CLAITOR AND ADLEY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC RECORDS. Provides relative to the records of the governor. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 44:5, relative to public records; to provide for the application of  
3 public records law to records of the office of the governor; to provide for exceptions;  
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 44:5 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §5. Records of the office of the governor

8 A. ~~This Chapter shall not apply to any records having been used, being in use,~~  
9 ~~possessed, or retained for use by the governor in the usual course of the duties and~~  
10 ~~business of his office relating to the deliberative process of the governor, intra-office~~  
11 ~~communications of the governor and his internal staff, the governor's security and~~  
12 ~~schedule, or communications with or the security and schedule of the governor's~~  
13 ~~spouse or children.~~ The legislature recognizes that it is essential to the  
14 maintenance of a democratic society that public business be performed in an  
15 open and public manner, and that the citizens be advised of and be aware of the  
16 performance of public officials and the deliberations and decisions that go into  
17 making public policy. Toward this end, the provisions of this Section, as well as

1 the rest of this Chapter, shall be construed liberally so as to facilitate, rather  
2 than hinder, access to public records.

3 B.(1) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, the provisions of this~~  
4 ~~Section shall not apply to any agency, office, or department transferred or placed~~  
5 ~~within the office of the governor.~~ Records of the office of the governor shall be  
6 public records and shall be subject to the provisions of this Chapter.

7 (2) ~~Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, a record limited to~~  
8 ~~pre-decisional advice and recommendations to the governor concerning budgeting~~  
9 ~~in the custody of any agency or department headed by an unclassified gubernatorial~~  
10 ~~appointee shall be privileged for six months from the date such record is prepared.~~  
11 Any record of the office of the governor relative to fiscal or budgetary matters,  
12 including but not limited to a record of communications between the legislative  
13 auditor's office and the office of the governor relative to fiscal or budgetary  
14 matters, shall be public record.

15 (3) Notwithstanding Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection, a record  
16 of the office of the governor relating to intraoffice communications of the  
17 governor and his staff may be privileged from disclosure only if it falls within  
18 the attorney-client privilege, personal privacy of an individual, or any  
19 applicable exception in this Chapter. Intraoffice communications shall include  
20 any communications sent or received on a nonstate issued email address or  
21 device if such communications are work related.

22 (4) Notwithstanding Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection, any  
23 record of the office of the governor pertaining to the schedule of the governor,  
24 his spouse, or his child that contains security details that if made public may  
25 impair the safety of the governor, his spouse, or his child may be held  
26 confidential for a period not to exceed seven days following the scheduled event.  
27 However, nothing in this Paragraph shall be interpreted or construed in a  
28 manner to make confidential all records concerning a meeting or event that the  
29 governor attends and transportation related thereto. The governor may keep

1 a record concerning a meeting or event that the governor attends and  
 2 transportation thereto privileged for a period not to exceed seven days after the  
 3 occurrence of the meeting or event.

4 (5) For purposes of this Section, "office of the governor" means the  
 5 governor, his chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, and his executive counsel.

6 C. The provisions of Subsection B of this Section shall not prevent any  
 7 person from inspecting, examining and, copying, or obtaining an electronic or  
 8 physical reproduction of any records record pertaining to any money or monies,  
 9 any assets or items of economic value to the state, or any financial transactions in  
 10 the control of or handled by or through the governor or the office of the governor.

11 D. For purposes of this Section:

12 ~~(1) "Deliberative process" means the process by which decisions and policies~~  
 13 ~~are formulated.~~

14 ~~(2) "Internal staff of the governor" means the governor, chief of staff,~~  
 15 ~~executive counsel, director of policy, and employees under their supervision. Internal~~  
 16 ~~staff shall not mean any person employed in any other executive agency, including~~  
 17 ~~those designated by state law as housed in or transferred to the office of the~~  
 18 ~~governor.~~

19 (3) ~~Records "relating to the deliberative process of the governor" means all~~  
 20 ~~forms of pre-decisional advice, opinions, deliberations, or recommendations made~~  
 21 ~~for the purpose of assisting the governor in the usual course of the duties and~~  
 22 ~~business of his office. The governor and his internal staff shall preserve all~~  
 23 records to which this Section is applicable and at the conclusion of his term of  
 24 office, the governor shall transfer all such records to the custody of the archives  
 25 division of the secretary of state. Any exemption granted by this Section for  
 26 such records shall continue in accordance with Subsection E of this Section. For  
 27 purposes of this Subsection, "internal staff" of the governor includes the  
 28 governor's chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, executive counsel, and director  
 29 of policy, but shall not include any employee of any other agency, department,



Proposed law provides that communications sent or received from a nonstate issued email address or device is still considered intraoffice communication if such communication is work related.

Proposed law provides that any record of the office of the governor pertaining to the schedule of the governor or that of his spouse or child that contains security details that if made public may impair the safety of the governor or his spouse or child may be held confidential for a period not to exceed seven days following the scheduled event. Proposed law further provides that nothing in proposed law is to be interpreted or construed in a manner to make confidential all records concerning a meeting or event that the governor attends and transportation related thereto. Proposed law further provides that the governor may keep a record concerning a meeting or event that he attends and transportation related thereto privileged for a period not to exceed seven days after the occurrence of the meeting or event.

Proposed law provides that proposed law does not apply to the records of any agency transferred or placed within the office of the governor or to the records of any other executive branch agency.

Proposed law provides that "office of the governor" means the governor, his chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, and his executive counsel.

Present law provides that present law does not prevent any person from examining and copying any records pertaining to any money or monies or any financial transactions in the control of or handled by or through the governor or the office of the governor.

Proposed law retains present law, and adds that proposed law does not prevent any person from inspecting or obtaining an electronic or physical reproduction of any record pertaining to any money or monies, any assets or items of economic value to the state, or any financial transactions in the control of or handled by or through the governor or office of the governor.

Proposed law provides that the governor or his internal staff (the governor's chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, executive counsel, and director of policy, but not employees of any other agency, department, or office) are to preserve all records to which proposed law applies, and at the conclusion of his term of office, the governor is to transfer all such records to the custody of the archives division of the secretary of state. Proposed law further provides that any exemption for such records continues in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law provides that any exemption granted by proposed law lapses eight years after the creation of the record to which the exemption is applicable. Proposed law further provides that after the lapse of eight years, the records of the office of the governor, as maintained by the state archivist and deposited with the state archives program pursuant to present law, are public record.

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

(Amends R.S. 44:5)