

SENATE BILL NO. 234

March 11, 2021, Introduced by Senators MCBROOM and MOSS and referred to the Committee on Oversight.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 442, entitled
"Freedom of information act,"
(MCL 15.231 to 15.246) by adding part 2.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

PART 2

Sec. 21. (1) This part shall be known and may be cited as the
"legislative open records act".

(2) It is the public policy of this state that all persons,
except those persons incarcerated in state or local correctional

1 facilities, are entitled to full and complete information regarding
2 the affairs of government and the official acts of those who
3 represent them as public officials and public employees, consistent
4 with this part. The people shall be informed so that they may fully
5 participate in the democratic process.

6 Sec. 22. As used in this part:

7 (a) "Council administrator" means the administrator of the
8 legislative council appointed under section 104a of the legislative
9 council act, 1986 PA 268, MCL 4.1104a.

10 (b) "Legislator" means a member of the senate or the house of
11 representatives of this state.

12 (c) "LORA" means the legislative open records act.

13 (d) "LORA coordinator" means either of the following:

14 (i) An individual who is a public body.

15 (ii) An individual designated by a public body to accept and
16 process requests for public records under this part.

17 (e) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited
18 liability company, partnership, firm, organization, association,
19 governmental entity, or other legal entity. Person does not include
20 an individual serving a sentence of imprisonment in a state or
21 county correctional facility in this state or any other state or in
22 a federal correctional facility.

23 (f) "Public body" means a state officer, legislator, employee,
24 agency, department, division, bureau, board, commission, committee,
25 council, authority, or other body in the legislative branch of the
26 state government. Public body does not include the office of the
27 auditor general.

28 (g) "Public record" means a writing prepared, owned, used, in
29 the possession of, or retained by a public body in the performance

1 of an official function that has been in the possession of the
2 public body for 15 days or more. Public record does not include
3 computer software. This part separates public records into the
4 following 2 classes:

5 (i) Those that are exempt from disclosure under section 29d.

6 (ii) Those that are not exempt from disclosure under section
7 29d and are subject to disclosure under this part.

8 (h) "Session day" means a day in which either the house of
9 representatives or the senate convenes in session and a quorum of
10 the body is recorded.

11 (i) "Software" means a set of statements or instructions that,
12 when incorporated in a machine-usable medium, is capable of causing
13 a machine or device having information-processing capabilities to
14 indicate, perform, or achieve a particular function, task, or
15 result. Software does not include computer-stored information or
16 data or a field name if disclosure of that field name would not
17 violate a software license.

18 (j) "Unusual circumstances" means any 1 or a combination of
19 the following, but only to the extent necessary for the proper
20 processing of a request:

21 (i) The need to search for, collect, or appropriately examine
22 or review a voluminous amount of separate and distinct public
23 records pursuant to a single request.

24 (ii) The need to collect the requested public records from
25 numerous offices, facilities, or other establishments that are
26 located apart from the particular office receiving or processing
27 the request.

28 (k) "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing,
29 photostating, photographing, photocopying, and every other means of

1 recording, and includes letters, words, pictures, sounds, or
2 symbols, or combinations thereof, and papers, maps, magnetic or
3 paper tapes, photographic films or prints, microfilm, microfiche,
4 magnetic or punched cards, discs, drums, hard drives, solid state
5 storage components, or other means of recording or retaining
6 meaningful content.

7 (l) "Written request" means a writing that asks for information
8 and includes a writing transmitted by facsimile, email, or other
9 electronic means.

10 Sec. 23. (1) Except as expressly provided in section 29d, upon
11 providing a public body's LORA coordinator with a written request
12 that describes a public record sufficiently to enable the public
13 body to find the public record, a person has a right to inspect,
14 copy, or receive copies of the requested public record of the
15 public body. A request from a person, other than an individual who
16 qualifies as indigent under section 24(2)(a), must include the
17 requesting person's complete name, address, and contact
18 information, and, if the request is made by a person other than an
19 individual, the complete name, address, and contact information of
20 the person's agent who is an individual. An address must be written
21 in compliance with United States Postal Service addressing
22 standards. Contact information must include a valid telephone
23 number or email address. An employee of a public body who receives
24 a request for a public record shall forward that request to the
25 LORA coordinator within 3 business days.

26 (2) A LORA coordinator shall keep a copy of all written
27 requests for public records on file for not less than 1 year.

28 (3) A public body shall furnish a requesting person a
29 reasonable opportunity for inspection and examination of its public

1 records and shall furnish reasonable facilities for making
2 memoranda or abstracts from its public records during the usual
3 business hours. A public body may make reasonable rules necessary
4 to protect its public records and to prevent excessive and
5 unreasonable interference with the discharge of its functions. A
6 public body shall protect public records from loss, unauthorized
7 alteration, mutilation, or destruction.

8 (4) This part does not require a public body to make a
9 compilation, summary, or report of information.

10 (5) This part does not require a public body to create a new
11 public record, except to the extent required by this part for the
12 furnishing of copies, or edited copies of an existing public record
13 under this part.

14 (6) The custodian of a public record shall, upon written
15 request, furnish a requesting person a certified copy of a public
16 record.

17 (7) A public body shall not destroy or alter a record before
18 the record has been in its possession for 730 days if the record
19 would become a public record after it has been in the possession of
20 the public body for 15 days.

21 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect January
22 1, 2022.

23 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect
24 unless all of the following bills of the 101st Legislature are
25 enacted into law:

26 (a) Senate Bill No. 232.

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28 (b) Senate Bill No. 240.

- 1 (c) Senate Bill No. 235.
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- 3 (d) Senate Bill No. 237.
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- 5 (e) Senate Bill No. 233.
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- 7 (f) Senate Bill No. 241.
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- 9 (g) Senate Bill No. 239.
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- 11 (h) Senate Bill No. 236.
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- 13 (i) Senate Bill No. 238.
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