

HOUSE BILL No. 2460

By Committee on Judiciary

Requested by Representative Essex

1-15

AN ACT concerning the Kansas open records act (KORA); relating to permissible exceptions to disclosure; providing an exception to KORA that authorizes members of the legislature to have identifying information restricted from public access on public websites that identify home addresses or home ownership; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 45-221 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 45-221 is hereby amended to read as follows: 45-221. (a) Except to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law, a public agency shall not be required to disclose:

(1) Records the disclosure of which is specifically prohibited or restricted by federal law, state statute or rule of the Kansas supreme court or rule of the senate committee on confirmation oversight relating to information submitted to the committee pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4315d, and amendments thereto, or the disclosure of which is prohibited or restricted pursuant to specific authorization of federal law, state statute or rule of the Kansas supreme court or rule of the senate committee on confirmation oversight relating to information submitted to the committee pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4315d, and amendments thereto, to restrict or prohibit disclosure.

(2) Records that are privileged under the rules of evidence, unless the holder of the privilege consents to the disclosure.

(3) Medical, psychiatric, psychological or alcoholism or drug dependency treatment records that pertain to identifiable patients.

(4) Personnel records, performance ratings or individually identifiable records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment, except that this exemption shall not apply to the names, positions, salaries or actual compensation employment contracts or employment-related contracts or agreements and lengths of service of officers and employees of public agencies once they are employed as such.

(5) Information that would reveal the identity of any undercover agent or any informant reporting a specific violation of law.

(6) Letters of reference or recommendation pertaining to the character or qualifications of an identifiable individual, except documents relating to

1 the appointment of persons to fill a vacancy in an elected office.

2 (7) Library, archive and museum materials contributed by private
3 persons; to the extent of any limitations imposed as conditions of the
4 contribution.

5 (8) Information that would reveal the identity of an individual who
6 lawfully makes a donation to a public agency, if anonymity of the donor is
7 a condition of the donation, except if the donation is intended for or
8 restricted to providing remuneration or personal tangible benefit to a
9 named public officer or employee.

10 (9) Testing and examination materials, before the test or examination
11 is given or if it is to be given again, or records of individual test or
12 examination scores, other than records that show only passage or failure
13 and not specific scores.

14 (10) Criminal investigation records, except as provided herein. The
15 district court, in an action brought pursuant to K.S.A. 45-222, and
16 amendments thereto, may order disclosure of such records, subject to such
17 conditions as the court may impose, if the court finds that disclosure:

18 (A) Is in the public interest;

19 (B) would not interfere with any prospective law enforcement action,
20 criminal investigation or prosecution;

21 (C) would not reveal the identity of any confidential source or
22 undercover agent;

23 (D) would not reveal confidential investigative techniques or
24 procedures not known to the general public;

25 (E) would not endanger the life or physical safety of any person; and

26 (F) would not reveal the name, address, phone number or any other
27 information that specifically and individually identifies the victim of any
28 sexual offense described in article 35 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes
29 Annotated, prior to their repeal, or article 55 of chapter 21 of the Kansas
30 Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

31 If a public record is discretionarily closed by a public agency pursuant
32 to this subsection, the record custodian, upon request, shall provide a
33 written citation to the specific provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (F)
34 that necessitate closure of that public record.

35 (11) Records of agencies involved in administrative adjudication or
36 civil litigation, compiled in the process of detecting or investigating
37 violations of civil law or administrative rules and regulations, if:

38 (A) Disclosure would interfere with a prospective administrative
39 adjudication or civil litigation;

40 (B) disclosure would reveal the identity of a confidential source or
41 undercover agent; or

42 (C) the investigation is formally closed and the agency determines
43 that no violation occurred.

1 (12) Records of emergency or security information or procedures of a
2 public agency, if disclosure would jeopardize public safety, including
3 records of cybersecurity plans, cybersecurity assessments and
4 cybersecurity vulnerabilities or procedures related to cybersecurity plans,
5 cybersecurity assessments and cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or plans,
6 drawings, specifications or related information for any building or facility
7 that is used for purposes requiring security measures in or around the
8 building or facility or that is used for the generation or transmission of
9 power, water, fuels or communications, if disclosure would jeopardize
10 security of the public agency, building or facility.

11 (13) The contents of appraisals or engineering or feasibility estimates
12 or evaluations made by or for a public agency relative to the acquisition of
13 property, prior to the award of formal contracts therefor.

14 (14) Correspondence between a public agency and a private
15 individual, other than correspondence that is intended to give notice of an
16 action, policy or determination relating to any regulatory, supervisory or
17 enforcement responsibility of the public agency or that is widely
18 distributed to the public by a public agency and is not specifically in
19 response to communications from such a private individual.

20 (15) Records pertaining to employer-employee negotiations, if
21 disclosure would reveal information discussed in a lawful executive
22 session under K.S.A. 75-4319, and amendments thereto.

23 (16) Software programs for electronic data processing and
24 documentation thereof, but each public agency shall maintain a register,
25 open to the public, that describes:

26 (A) The information that the agency maintains on computer facilities;
27 and

28 (B) the form in which the information can be made available using
29 existing computer programs.

30 (17) Applications, financial statements and other information
31 submitted in connection with applications for student financial assistance
32 where financial need is a consideration for the award.

33 (18) Plans, designs, drawings or specifications that are prepared by a
34 person other than an employee of a public agency or records that are the
35 property of a private person.

36 (19) Well samples, logs or surveys that the state corporation
37 commission requires to be filed by persons who have drilled or caused to
38 be drilled, or are drilling or causing to be drilled, holes for the purpose of
39 discovery or production of oil or gas; to the extent that disclosure is
40 limited by rules and regulations of the state corporation commission.

41 (20) Notes, preliminary drafts, research data in the process of
42 analysis, unfunded grant proposals, memoranda, recommendations or
43 other records in which opinions are expressed or policies or actions are

1 proposed, except that this exemption shall not apply when such records are
2 publicly cited or identified in an open meeting or in an agenda of an open
3 meeting.

4 (21) Records of a public agency having legislative powers that pertain
5 to proposed legislation or amendments to proposed legislation, except that
6 this exemption shall not apply when such records are:

7 (A) Publicly cited or identified in an open meeting or in an agenda of
8 an open meeting; or

9 (B) distributed to a majority of a quorum of any body that has
10 authority to take action or make recommendations to the public agency
11 with regard to the matters to which such records pertain.

12 (22) Records of a public agency having legislative powers that pertain
13 to research prepared for one or more members of such agency, except that
14 this exemption shall not apply when such records are:

15 (A) Publicly cited or identified in an open meeting or in an agenda of
16 an open meeting; or

17 (B) distributed to a majority of a quorum of any body that has
18 authority to take action or make recommendations to the public agency
19 with regard to the matters to which such records pertain.

20 (23) Library patron and circulation records that pertain to identifiable
21 individuals.

22 (24) Records that are compiled for census or research purposes and
23 ~~which~~ pertain to identifiable individuals.

24 (25) Records that represent and constitute the work product of an
25 attorney.

26 (26) Records of a utility or other public service pertaining to
27 individually identifiable residential customers of the utility or service.

28 (27) Specifications for competitive bidding, until the specifications
29 are officially approved by the public agency.

30 (28) Sealed bids and related documents, until a bid is accepted or all
31 bids rejected.

32 (29) Correctional records pertaining to an identifiable inmate or
33 release, except that:

34 (A) The name; photograph and other identifying information;
35 sentence data; parole eligibility date; custody or supervision level;
36 disciplinary record; supervision violations; conditions of supervision,
37 excluding requirements pertaining to mental health or substance abuse
38 counseling; location of facility where incarcerated or location of parole
39 office maintaining supervision and address of a releasee whose crime was
40 committed after the effective date of this act shall be subject to disclosure
41 to any person other than another inmate or releasee, except that the
42 disclosure of the location of an inmate transferred to another state pursuant
43 to the interstate corrections compact shall be at the discretion of the

1 secretary of corrections;

2 (B) the attorney general, law enforcement agencies, counsel for the
3 inmate to whom the record pertains and any county or district attorney
4 shall have access to correctional records to the extent otherwise permitted
5 by law;

6 (C) the information provided to the law enforcement agency pursuant
7 to the sex offender registration act, K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and
8 amendments thereto, shall be subject to disclosure to any person, except
9 that the name, address, telephone number or any other information that
10 specifically and individually identifies the victim of any offender required
11 to register as provided by the Kansas offender registration act, K.S.A. 22-
12 4901 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall not be disclosed; and

13 (D) records of the department of corrections regarding the financial
14 assets of an offender in the custody of the secretary of corrections shall be
15 subject to disclosure to the victim, or such victim's family, of the crime for
16 which the inmate is in custody as set forth in an order of restitution by the
17 sentencing court.

18 (30) Public records containing information of a personal nature where
19 the public disclosure thereof would constitute a clearly unwarranted
20 invasion of personal privacy.

21 (31) Public records pertaining to prospective location of a business or
22 industry where no previous public disclosure has been made of the
23 business' or industry's interest in locating in, relocating within or
24 expanding within the state. This exception shall not include those records
25 pertaining to application of agencies for permits or licenses necessary to
26 do business or to expand business operations within this state, except as
27 otherwise provided by law.

28 (32) Engineering and architectural estimates made by or for any
29 public agency relative to public improvements.

30 (33) Financial information submitted by contractors in qualification
31 statements to any public agency.

32 (34) Records involved in the obtaining and processing of intellectual
33 property rights that are expected to be, wholly or partially vested in or
34 owned by a state educational institution, as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and
35 amendments thereto, or an assignee of the institution organized and
36 existing for the benefit of the institution.

37 (35) Any report or record that is made pursuant to K.S.A. 65-4922,
38 65-4923 or 65-4924, and amendments thereto, and that is privileged
39 pursuant to K.S.A. 65-4915 or 65-4925, and amendments thereto.

40 (36) Information that would reveal the precise location of an
41 archeological site.

42 (37) Any financial data or traffic information from a railroad
43 company, to a public agency, concerning the sale, lease or rehabilitation of

1 the railroad's property in Kansas.

2 (38) Risk-based capital reports, risk-based capital plans and
3 corrective orders including the working papers and the results of any
4 analysis filed with the commissioner of insurance in accordance with
5 K.S.A. 40-2c20 and 40-2d20, and amendments thereto.

6 (39) Memoranda and related materials required to be used to support
7 the annual actuarial opinions submitted pursuant to K.S.A. 40-409(b), and
8 amendments thereto.

9 (40) Disclosure reports filed with the commissioner of insurance
10 under K.S.A. 40-2,156(a), and amendments thereto.

11 (41) All financial analysis ratios and examination synopses
12 concerning insurance companies that are submitted to the commissioner by
13 the national association of insurance commissioners' insurance regulatory
14 information system.

15 (42) Any records the disclosure of which is restricted or prohibited by
16 a tribal-state gaming compact.

17 (43) Market research, market plans, business plans and the terms and
18 conditions of managed care or other third-party contracts, developed or
19 entered into by the university of Kansas medical center in the operation
20 and management of the university hospital that the chancellor of the
21 university of Kansas or the chancellor's designee determines would give an
22 unfair advantage to competitors of the university of Kansas medical center.

23 (44) The amount of franchise tax paid to the secretary of revenue or
24 the secretary of state by domestic corporations, foreign corporations,
25 domestic limited liability companies, foreign limited liability companies,
26 domestic limited partnership, foreign limited partnership, domestic limited
27 liability partnerships and foreign limited liability partnerships.

28 (45) Records, other than criminal investigation records, the disclosure
29 of which would pose a substantial likelihood of revealing security
30 measures that protect:

31 (A) Systems, facilities or equipment used in the production,
32 transmission or distribution of energy, water or communications services;

33 (B) transportation and sewer or wastewater treatment systems,
34 facilities or equipment; or

35 (C) private property or persons, if the records are submitted to the
36 agency. For purposes of this paragraph, security means measures that
37 protect against criminal acts intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian
38 population, influence government policy by intimidation or coercion or to
39 affect the operation of government by disruption of public services, mass
40 destruction, assassination or kidnapping. Security measures include, but
41 are not limited to, intelligence information, tactical plans, resource
42 deployment and vulnerability assessments.

43 (46) Any information or material received by the register of deeds of

1 a county from military discharge papers, DD Form 214. Such papers shall
2 be disclosed: To the military dischargee; to such dischargee's immediate
3 family members and lineal descendants; to such dischargee's heirs, agents
4 or assigns; to the licensed funeral director who has custody of the body of
5 the deceased dischargee; when required by a department or agency of the
6 federal or state government or a political subdivision thereof; when the
7 form is required to perfect the claim of military service or honorable
8 discharge or a claim of a dependent of the dischargee; and upon the written
9 approval of the Kansas office of veterans services, to a person conducting
10 research.

11 (47) Information that would reveal the location of a shelter or a
12 safehouse or similar place where persons are provided protection from
13 abuse or the name, address, location or other contact information of
14 alleged victims of stalking, domestic violence or sexual assault.

15 (48) Policy information provided by an insurance carrier in
16 accordance with K.S.A. 44-532(h)(1), and amendments thereto. This
17 exemption shall not be construed to preclude access to an individual
18 employer's record for the purpose of verification of insurance coverage or
19 to the department of labor for their business purposes.

20 (49) An individual's e-mail address, cell phone number and other
21 contact information that has been given to the public agency for the
22 purpose of public agency notifications or communications that are widely
23 distributed to the public.

24 (50) Information provided by providers to the local collection point
25 administrator or to the 911 coordinating council pursuant to the Kansas
26 911 act upon request of the party submitting such records.

27 (51) Records of a public agency on a public website that are
28 searchable by a keyword search and identify the home address or home
29 ownership of: A law enforcement officer as defined in K.S.A. 21-5111, and
30 amendments thereto; a parole officer; a probation officer; a court services
31 officer; a community correctional services officer; a local correctional
32 officer or local detention officer; a federal judge; a justice of the supreme
33 court; a judge of the court of appeals; a district judge; a district magistrate
34 judge; a municipal judge; a presiding officer who conducts hearings
35 pursuant to the Kansas administrative procedure act; an administrative law
36 judge employed by the office of administrative hearings; a member of the
37 state board of tax appeals; an administrative law judge who conducts
38 hearings pursuant to the workers compensation act; a member of the
39 workers' compensation appeals board; the United States attorney for the
40 district of Kansas; an assistant United States attorney; a special assistant
41 United States attorney; the attorney general; an assistant attorney general;
42 a special assistant attorney general; a county attorney; an assistant county
43 attorney; a special assistant county attorney; a district attorney; an assistant

1 district attorney; a special assistant district attorney; a city attorney; an
2 assistant city attorney; ~~or a special assistant city attorney; or a member of~~
3 *the legislature*. Such person shall file with the custodian of such record a
4 request to have such person's identifying information restricted from
5 public access on such public website. Within 10 business days of receipt of
6 such requests, the public agency shall restrict such person's identifying
7 information from such public access. Such restriction shall expire after
8 five years and such person may file with the custodian of such record a
9 new request for restriction at any time.

10 (52) Records of a public agency that would disclose the name, home
11 address, zip code, e-mail address, phone number or cell phone number or
12 other contact information for any person licensed to carry concealed
13 handguns or of any person who enrolled in or completed any weapons
14 training in order to be licensed or has made application for such license
15 under the personal and family protection act, K.S.A. 75-7c01 et seq., and
16 amendments thereto, shall not be disclosed unless otherwise required by
17 law.

18 (53) Records of a utility concerning information about cyber security
19 threats, attacks or general attempts to attack utility operations provided to
20 law enforcement agencies, the state corporation commission, the federal
21 energy regulatory commission, the department of energy, the southwest
22 power pool, the North American electric reliability corporation, the federal
23 communications commission or any other federal, state or regional
24 organization that has a responsibility for the safeguarding of
25 telecommunications, electric, potable water, waste water disposal or
26 treatment, motor fuel or natural gas energy supply systems.

27 (54) Records of a public agency containing information or reports
28 obtained and prepared by the office of the state bank commissioner in the
29 course of licensing or examining a person engaged in money transmission
30 business pursuant to K.S.A. 9-508 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall
31 not be disclosed except pursuant to K.S.A. 9-513c, and amendments
32 thereto, or unless otherwise required by law.

33 (55) Records of a public agency that contain captured license plate
34 data or that pertain to the location of an automated license plate
35 recognition system.

36 (56) Records of a public agency that contain material that is obscene
37 as defined in K.S.A. 21-6401, and amendments thereto.

38 (b) Except to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law or as
39 appropriate during the course of an administrative proceeding or on appeal
40 from agency action, a public agency or officer shall not disclose financial
41 information of a taxpayer that may be required or requested by a county
42 appraiser or the director of property valuation to assist in the determination
43 of the value of the taxpayer's property for ad valorem taxation purposes; or

1 any financial information of a personal nature required or requested by a
2 public agency or officer, including a name, job description or title
3 revealing the salary or other compensation of officers, employees or
4 applicants for employment with a firm, corporation or agency, except a
5 public agency. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the
6 publication of statistics, so classified as to prevent identification of
7 particular reports or returns and the items thereof.

8 (c) As used in this section, the term "cited or identified" does not
9 include a request to an employee of a public agency that a document be
10 prepared.

11 (d) If a public record contains material that is not subject to disclosure
12 pursuant to this act, the public agency shall separate or delete such
13 material and make available to the requester that material in the public
14 record that is subject to disclosure pursuant to this act. If a public record is
15 not subject to disclosure because it pertains to an identifiable individual,
16 the public agency shall delete the identifying portions of the record and
17 make available to the requester any remaining portions that are subject to
18 disclosure pursuant to this act, unless the request is for a record pertaining
19 to a specific individual or to such a limited group of individuals that the
20 individuals' identities are reasonably ascertainable, the public agency shall
21 not be required to disclose those portions of the record that pertain to such
22 individual or individuals.

23 (e) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to exempt
24 from public disclosure statistical information not descriptive of any
25 identifiable person.

26 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), any public
27 record that has been in existence more than 70 years shall be open for
28 inspection by any person unless disclosure of the record is specifically
29 prohibited or restricted by federal law, state statute or rule of the Kansas
30 supreme court or by a policy adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 72-6214, and
31 amendments thereto.

32 (g) Any confidential records or information relating to security
33 measures provided or received under the provisions of subsection (a)(45)
34 shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or other demand in any
35 administrative, criminal or civil action.

36 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 45-221 is hereby repealed.

37 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
38 publication in the statute book.