

HB 2476 -- THE SUNSHINE LAW

SPONSOR: Curtis

This bill requires public governmental bodies to provide access to and furnish copies of public records within 21 days of the receiving a request. If the request is not completed within 21 days then the public governmental body and its principal officer will be liable for a civil penalty of \$100,000. This bill specifies that a public governmental body can take longer than 21 days to fill a request if the body writes a letter to the requester of the records, before the initial 21-day period has elapsed, explaining in detail why the request cannot be completed in 21 days and stating the date the request will be completed. But if the request is not completed by the date stated in the letter then the public governmental body and its principal officer shall be liable for a civil penalty of \$250,000.

This bill also changes the fee a public governmental body can charge for the copying of public records so that it cannot exceed 1 cent per page. Currently, the fee cannot exceed 10 cents per page.