

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2725
100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5735H.03C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 610.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the sunshine law, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 610.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 610.021, to read as follows:

610.021. Except to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law, a public governmental body is authorized to close meetings, records and votes, to the extent they relate to the following:

(1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys. However, any minutes, vote or settlement agreement relating to legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body or any agent or entity representing its interests or acting on its behalf or with its authority, including any insurance company acting on behalf of a public government body as its insured, shall be made public upon final disposition of the matter voted upon or upon the signing by the parties of the settlement agreement, unless, prior to final disposition, the settlement agreement is ordered closed by a court after a written finding that the adverse impact to a plaintiff or plaintiffs to the action clearly outweighs the public policy considerations of section 610.011, however, the amount of any moneys paid by, or on behalf of, the public governmental body shall be disclosed; provided, however, in matters involving the exercise of the power of eminent domain, the vote shall be announced or become public immediately following the action on the motion to authorize institution of such a legal action. Legal work product shall be considered a closed record;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 (2) Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public
20 knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor. However,
21 any minutes, vote or public record approving a contract relating to the leasing, purchase or sale
22 of real estate by a public governmental body shall be made public upon execution of the lease,
23 purchase or sale of the real estate;

24 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public
25 governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded.
26 However, any vote on a final decision, when taken by a public governmental body, to hire, fire,
27 promote or discipline an employee of a public governmental body shall be made available with
28 a record of how each member voted to the public within seventy-two hours of the close of the
29 meeting where such action occurs; provided, however, that any employee so affected shall be
30 entitled to prompt notice of such decision during the seventy-two-hour period before such
31 decision is made available to the public. As used in this subdivision, the term "personal
32 information" means information relating to the performance or merit of individual employees;

33 (4) The state militia or national guard or any part thereof;

34 (5) Nonjudicial mental or physical health proceedings **or records** involving identifiable
35 persons, including medical, psychiatric, psychological, or alcoholism or drug dependency
36 diagnosis or treatment;

37 (6) Scholastic probation, expulsion, or graduation of identifiable individuals, including
38 records of individual test or examination scores; however, personally identifiable student records
39 maintained by public educational institutions shall be open for inspection by the parents,
40 guardian or other custodian of students under the age of eighteen years and by the parents,
41 guardian or other custodian and the student if the student is over the age of eighteen years;

42 (7) Testing and examination materials, before the test or examination is given or, if it
43 is to be given again, before so given again;

44 (8) Welfare cases of identifiable individuals;

45 (9) Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public
46 governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups;

47 (10) Software codes for electronic data processing and documentation thereof;

48 (11) Specifications for competitive bidding, until either the specifications are officially
49 approved by the public governmental body or the specifications are published for bid;

50 (12) Sealed bids and related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals
51 and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is
52 executed, or all proposals are rejected;

53 (13) Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records
54 pertaining to employees or applicants for employment, except that this exemption shall not apply

55 to the names, positions, salaries and lengths of service of officers and employees of public
56 agencies once they are employed as such, and the names of private sources donating or
57 contributing money to the salary of a chancellor or president at all public colleges and
58 universities in the state of Missouri and the amount of money contributed by the source;

59 (14) Records which are protected from disclosure by law;

60 (15) Meetings and public records relating to scientific and technological innovations in
61 which the owner has a proprietary interest;

62 (16) Records relating to ~~[municipal]~~ hotlines established for the reporting of abuse and
63 wrongdoing;

64 (17) Confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body
65 and its auditor, including all auditor work product; however, all final audit reports issued by the
66 auditor are to be considered open records pursuant to this chapter;

67 (18) Operational guidelines, policies and specific response plans developed, adopted, or
68 maintained by any public agency responsible for law enforcement, public safety, first response,
69 or public health for use in responding to or preventing any critical incident which is or appears
70 to be terrorist in nature and which has the potential to endanger individual or public safety or
71 health. Financial records related to the procurement of or expenditures relating to operational
72 guidelines, policies or plans purchased with public funds shall be open. When seeking to close
73 information pursuant to this exception, the public governmental body shall affirmatively state
74 in writing that disclosure would impair the public governmental body's ability to protect the
75 security or safety of persons or real property, and shall in the same writing state that the public
76 interest in nondisclosure outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the records;

77 (19) Existing or proposed security systems and structural plans of real property owned
78 or leased by a public governmental body, and information that is voluntarily submitted by a
79 nonpublic entity owning or operating an infrastructure to any public governmental body for use
80 by that body to devise plans for protection of that infrastructure, the public disclosure of which
81 would threaten public safety;

82 (a) Records related to the procurement of or expenditures relating to security systems
83 purchased with public funds shall be open;

84 (b) When seeking to close information pursuant to this exception, the public
85 governmental body shall affirmatively state in writing that disclosure would impair the public
86 governmental body's ability to protect the security or safety of persons or real property, and shall
87 in the same writing state that the public interest in nondisclosure outweighs the public interest
88 in disclosure of the records;

89 (c) Records that are voluntarily submitted by a nonpublic entity shall be reviewed by the
90 receiving agency within ninety days of submission to determine if retention of the document is

91 necessary in furtherance of a state security interest. If retention is not necessary, the documents
92 shall be returned to the nonpublic governmental body or destroyed;

93 (20) The portion of a record that identifies security systems or access codes or
94 authorization codes for security systems of real property;

95 (21) Records that identify the configuration of components or the operation of a
96 computer, computer system, computer network, or telecommunications network, and would
97 allow unauthorized access to or unlawful disruption of a computer, computer system, computer
98 network, or telecommunications network of a public governmental body. This exception shall
99 not be used to limit or deny access to otherwise public records in a file, document, data file or
100 database containing public records. Records related to the procurement of or expenditures
101 relating to such computer, computer system, computer network, or telecommunications network,
102 including the amount of moneys paid by, or on behalf of, a public governmental body for such
103 computer, computer system, computer network, or telecommunications network shall be open;

104 (22) Credit card numbers, personal identification numbers, digital certificates, physical
105 and virtual keys, access codes or authorization codes that are used to protect the security of
106 electronic transactions between a public governmental body and a person or entity doing business
107 with a public governmental body. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to close the record
108 of a person or entity using a credit card held in the name of a public governmental body or any
109 record of a transaction made by a person using a credit card or other method of payment for
110 which reimbursement is made by a public governmental body;

111 (23) Records submitted by an individual, corporation, or other business entity to a public
112 institution of higher education in connection with a proposal to license intellectual property or
113 perform sponsored research and which contains sales projections or other business plan
114 information the disclosure of which may endanger the competitiveness of a business; ~~and~~

115 (24) Records relating to foster home or kinship placements of children in foster care
116 under section 210.498; and

117 **(25) During the period that an emergency exists or continues, public access to**
118 **meetings of public governmental bodies may be restricted in the event of an outbreak of**
119 **contagious illness resulting in the governor or general assembly declaring a state of**
120 **emergency under the provisions of section 44.100. Meetings restricted under the provisions**
121 **of this subdivision shall be live streamed online and accessible to the public if reasonably**
122 **possible. If not, such meetings shall be video and audio recorded and made accessible to**
123 **the public online within twenty-four hours after such meeting. Members of the public shall**
124 **be authorized to submit written testimony to the public governmental body, which shall**
125 **be presented at such meeting, made a part of any official record, and made accessible to**

126 **the public online within forty-eight hours after such meeting. Bona fide credentialed**
127 **members of the press shall be allowed to attend any meeting closed under this subdivision.**

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to ensure transparency of public
2 governmental bodies while protecting citizens during an outbreak of contagious illness, the
3 repeal and reenactment of section 610.021 of section A of this act is deemed necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared
5 to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and the repeal and reenactment
6 of section 610.021 of section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and
7 approval.

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