

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 657

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TRENT.

1465H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

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

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Section A. Section 610.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 610.021, to read as follows: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

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.

17 authorize institution of such a legal action. Legal work product shall be considered a closed record;

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

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

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

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

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

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

43 (8) Welfare cases of identifiable individuals;

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

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

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

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

52 (13) Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records  
53 pertaining to employees or applicants for employment, except that this exemption shall not apply  
54 to the names, positions, salaries and lengths of service of officers and employees of public  
55 agencies once they are employed as such, and the names of private sources donating or  
56 contributing money to the salary of a chancellor or president at all public colleges and  
57 universities in the state of Missouri and the amount of money contributed by the source;

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

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

61 (16) Records relating to municipal hotlines established for the reporting of abuse and  
62 wrongdoing;

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

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

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

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

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

88 (c) Records that are voluntarily submitted by a nonpublic entity shall be reviewed by the  
89 receiving agency within ninety days of submission to determine if retention of the document is  
90 necessary in furtherance of a state security interest. If retention is not necessary, the documents  
91 shall be returned to the nonpublic governmental body or destroyed;

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

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

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

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

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

116 **(25) Individually identifiable customer usage and billing records for customers of**  
117 **a municipally owned utility unless the records are requested by the customer or authorized**  
118 **for release by the customer, except that a municipally owned utility shall make available**  
119 **to the public the customer's name, billing address, location of service, and dates of service**  
120 **provided for any commercial service account.**

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