

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

SENATE BILL 452

By: Kirt

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Records Act; amending 51 O.S. 2011, Section 24A.5, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 202, O.S.L. 2017 (51 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 24A.5), which relates to inspection, copying and mechanical reproduction of records; requiring certain records to be provided electronically upon request; prohibiting requirement for conversion of certain records; updating statutory reference; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2011, Section 24A.5, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 202, O.S.L. 2017 (51 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 24A.5), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24A.5. All records of public bodies and public officials shall be open to any person for inspection, copying, or mechanical reproduction during regular business hours; provided:

1. The Oklahoma Open Records Act, Sections 24A.1 through 24A.30 of this title, does not apply to records specifically required by law to be kept confidential including:

- a. records protected by a state evidentiary privilege such as the attorney-client privilege, the work product immunity from discovery and the identity of informer privileges,
- b. records of what transpired during meetings of a public body lawfully closed to the public such as executive sessions authorized under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act,
- c. personal information within driver records as defined by the Driver's Privacy Protection Act, 18 United States Code, Sections 2721 through 2725,
- d. information in the files of the Board of Medicolegal Investigations obtained pursuant to Sections 940 and 941 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes that may be hearsay, preliminary unsubstantiated investigation-related findings, or confidential medical information, or
- e. any test forms, question banks and answer keys developed for state licensure examinations, but specifically excluding test preparation materials or study guides;

2. All Social Security numbers included in a record may be confidential regardless of the person's status as a public employee

1 or private individual and may be redacted or deleted prior to
2 release of the record by the public body;

3 3. Any reasonably segregable portion of a record containing
4 exempt material shall be provided after deletion of the exempt
5 portions; provided, however, the Department of Public Safety shall
6 not be required to assemble for the requesting person specific
7 information, in any format, from driving records relating to any
8 person whose name and date of birth or whose driver license number
9 is not furnished by the requesting person.

10 The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall not be required
11 to assemble for the requesting person any criminal history records
12 relating to persons whose names, dates of birth, and other
13 identifying information required by the Oklahoma State Bureau of
14 Investigation pursuant to administrative rule are not furnished by
15 the requesting person;

16 4. Any request for a record which contains individual records
17 of persons, and the cost of copying, reproducing or certifying each
18 individual record is otherwise prescribed by state law, the cost may
19 be assessed for each individual record, or portion thereof requested
20 as prescribed by state law. Otherwise, a public body may charge a
21 fee only for recovery of the reasonable, direct costs of record
22 copying, or mechanical reproduction. Notwithstanding any state or
23 local provision to the contrary, in no instance shall the record
24 copying fee exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for records

1 having the dimensions of eight and one-half (8 1/2) by fourteen (14)
2 inches or smaller, or a maximum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per copied
3 page for a certified copy. However, if the request:

- 4 a. is solely for commercial purpose, or
- 5 b. would clearly cause excessive disruption of the
6 essential functions of the public body,

7 then the public body may charge a reasonable fee to recover the
8 direct cost of record search and copying; however, publication in a
9 newspaper or broadcast by news media for news purposes shall not
10 constitute a resale or use of a record for trade or commercial
11 purpose and charges for providing copies of electronic data to the
12 news media for a news purpose shall not exceed the direct cost of
13 making the copy. The fee charged by the Department of Public Safety
14 for a copy in a computerized format of a record of the Department
15 shall not exceed the direct cost of making the copy unless the fee
16 for the record is otherwise set by law.

17 Any public body establishing fees under ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma
18 Open Records Act shall post a written schedule of the fees at its
19 principal office and with the county clerk.

20 In no case shall a search fee be charged when the release of
21 records is in the public interest, including, but not limited to,
22 release to the news media, scholars, authors and taxpayers seeking
23 to determine whether those entrusted with the affairs of the
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1 government are honestly, faithfully, and competently performing
2 their duties as public servants.

3 The fees shall not be used for the purpose of discouraging
4 requests for information or as obstacles to disclosure of requested
5 information;

6 5. The land description tract index of all recorded instruments
7 concerning real property required to be kept by the county clerk of
8 any county shall be available for inspection or copying in
9 accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Records Act;
10 provided, however, the index shall not be copied or mechanically
11 reproduced for the purpose of sale of the information;

12 6. A public body must provide prompt, reasonable access to its
13 records but may establish reasonable procedures which protect the
14 integrity and organization of its records and to prevent excessive
15 disruptions of its essential functions. A delay in providing access
16 to records shall be limited solely to the time required for
17 preparing the requested documents and the avoidance of excessive
18 disruptions of the public body's essential functions. In no event
19 may production of a current request for records be unreasonably
20 delayed until after completion of a prior records request that will
21 take substantially longer than the current request. Any public body
22 which makes the requested records available on the Internet shall
23 meet the obligation of providing prompt, reasonable access to its
24 records as required by this paragraph; ~~and~~

1 7. A public body shall designate certain persons who are
2 authorized to release records of the public body for inspection,
3 copying, or mechanical reproduction. At least one person shall be
4 available at all times to release records during the regular
5 business hours of the public body; and

6 8. Upon request, any record of a public body that is excepted
7 from confidentiality pursuant to this act and stored electronically
8 shall be provided electronically; provided, a public body shall not
9 be required to convert a record that is maintained in a
10 nonelectronic format into an electronic format for the purpose of
11 this act.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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