

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1532

By: Hines

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Records Act; amending 51 O.S. 2021, Sections 24A.5, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 404, O.S.L. 2025, and 24A.7, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 2022 (51 O.S. Supp. 2025, Sections 24A.5 and 24A.7), which relate to inspection and reproduction of records and personnel records; authorizing public bodies to require the full name and contact information of requestors; authorizing public bodies to keep timekeeping and badge entrance information confidential; updating statutory reference; updating statutory language; making language gender neutral; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2021, Section 24A.5, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 404, O.S.L. 2025 (51 O.S. Supp. 2025, 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 1. The Oklahoma Open Records Act, Sections 24A.1 through ~~24A.34~~
2 24A.40 of this title, does not apply to records specifically
3 required by law to be kept confidential including:

- 4 a. records protected by a state evidentiary privilege
5 such as the attorney-client privilege, the work
6 product immunity from discovery and the identity of
7 informer privileges,
- 8 b. records of what transpired during meetings of a public
9 body lawfully closed to the public such as executive
10 sessions authorized under the Oklahoma Open Meeting
11 Act,
- 12 c. personal information within driver records as defined
13 by the Driver's Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C.,
14 Sections 2721 through 2725,
- 15 d. information in the files of the Board of Medicolegal
16 Investigations obtained pursuant to Sections 940 and
17 941 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes that may be
18 hearsay, preliminary unsubstantiated investigation-
19 related findings, or confidential medical information,
- 20 e. any test forms, question banks, and answer keys
21 developed for state licensure examinations, but
22 specifically excluding test preparation materials or
23 study guides,

- 1 f. last names, addresses, Social Security numbers or tax
2 identification numbers, and proof of identification
3 submitted to the Oklahoma Lottery Commission by
4 persons claiming a lottery prize,
- 5 g. unless public disclosure is required by other laws or
6 regulations, vehicle movement records of the Oklahoma
7 ~~Transportation~~ Turnpike Authority obtained in
8 connection with the Authority's electronic toll
9 collection system,
- 10 h. personal financial information, credit reports, or
11 other financial data obtained by or submitted to a
12 public body for the purpose of evaluating credit
13 worthiness, obtaining a license, permit, or for the
14 purpose of becoming qualified to contract with a
15 public body,
- 16 i. any digital ~~audio/video~~ audio or video recordings of
17 the toll collection and safeguarding activities of the
18 Oklahoma ~~Transportation~~ Turnpike Authority,
- 19 j. any personal information provided by a guest at any
20 facility owned or operated by the Oklahoma Tourism and
21 Recreation Department to obtain any service at the
22 facility or by a purchaser of a product sold by or
23 through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation
24 Department,

- 1 k. a United States Department of Defense Form 214 (DD
2 Form 214) filed with a county clerk, including any DD
3 Form 214 filed before July 1, 2002,
- 4 l. except as provided for in Section 2-110 of Title 47 of
5 the Oklahoma Statutes:
- 6 (1) any record in connection with a Motor Vehicle
7 Report issued by the Department of Public Safety,
8 as prescribed in Section 6-117 of Title 47 of the
9 Oklahoma Statutes, or
- 10 (2) personal information within driver records, as
11 defined by the Driver's Privacy Protection Act,
12 18 U.S.C., Sections 2721 through 2725, which are
13 stored and maintained by the Department of Public
14 Safety,
- 15 m. any portion of any document or information provided to
16 an agency or entity of the state or a political
17 subdivision to obtain licensure under the laws of this
18 state or a political subdivision that contains an
19 applicant's personal address, personal phone number,
20 personal email address, any government-issued
21 identification numbers, or other contact information;
22 provided, however, lists of persons licensed, the
23 existence of a license of a person, or a business or
24 commercial address, or other business or commercial

1 information disclosable under state law submitted with
2 an application for licensure shall be public record,
3 unless the business or commercial address is the same
4 as the applicant's personal address, except when the
5 applicant permits in writing the disclosure of the
6 address,

7 n. an investigative file obtained during an investigation
8 conducted by the State Department of Health into
9 violations of the Long-Term Care Administrator
10 Licensing Act under Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
11 or

12 o. documents, evidence, materials, records, reports,
13 complaints, or other information in the possession or
14 control of the Attorney General or Insurance
15 Department pertaining to an evaluation, examination,
16 investigation, or review made pursuant to the
17 provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice
18 Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, or Sections 357
19 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

20 2. All Social Security numbers included in a record may be
21 confidential regardless of the person's status as a public employee
22 or private individual and may be redacted or deleted prior to
23 release of the record by the public body;

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

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

14 4. Any request for a record which contains individual records
15 of persons, and the cost of copying, reproducing or certifying each
16 individual record is otherwise prescribed by state law, the cost may
17 be assessed for each individual record, or portion thereof requested
18 as prescribed by state law. Otherwise, a public body may charge a
19 fee only for recovery of the reasonable, direct costs of record
20 copying, or mechanical reproduction. Notwithstanding any state or
21 local provision to the contrary, in no instance shall the record
22 copying fee exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for records
23 having the dimensions of eight and one-half (8 1/2) by fourteen (14)

1 inches or smaller, or a maximum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per copied
2 page for a certified copy. However, if the request:

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

6 then the public body may charge a reasonable fee to recover the
7 direct cost of record search and copying; however, publication in a
8 newspaper or broadcast by news media for news purposes shall not
9 constitute a resale or use of a record for trade or commercial
10 purpose and charges for providing copies of electronic data to the
11 news media for a news purpose shall not exceed the direct cost of
12 making the copy. The fee charged by the Department of Public Safety
13 for a copy in a computerized format of a record of the Department
14 shall not exceed the direct cost of making the copy unless the fee
15 for the record is otherwise set by law. A public body may require
16 advance payment of the estimated fees authorized under this section
17 when the estimated cost exceeds Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) or if
18 the requestor has outstanding fees from previous requests. Any
19 portion of an advance payment that exceeds the costs of responding
20 to the request shall be returned to the requestor.

21 Any public body establishing fees under the Oklahoma Open
22 Records Act shall post a written schedule of the fees at its
23 principal office and with the county clerk.

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

7 The fees shall not be used for the purpose of discouraging
8 requests for information or as obstacles to disclosure of requested
9 information;

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

16 6. A public body must provide prompt, reasonable access to its
17 records but may establish reasonable procedures which protect the
18 integrity and organization of its records and to prevent excessive
19 disruptions of its essential functions. A delay in providing access
20 to records shall be limited solely to the time required for
21 preparing the requested documents and the avoidance of excessive
22 disruptions of the public body's essential functions. In no event
23 may production of a current request for records be unreasonably
24 delayed until after completion of a prior records request that will

1 take substantially longer than the current request. Any public body
2 which makes the requested records available on the Internet shall
3 meet the obligation of providing prompt, reasonable access to its
4 records as required by this paragraph;

5 7. A public body may require a requestor to complete a records
6 request form that includes the full name and contact information of
7 the requestor. If a records request does not describe the requested
8 records with reasonable specificity, a public body may ask the
9 requestor to clarify the request. To have reasonable specificity, a
10 request shall:

- 11 a. specify a general time frame within which the
12 requested records would have been created or
13 transmitted,
- 14 b. seek identifiable records, rather than general
15 information without any qualifiers or other
16 specifications, and
- 17 c. include search terms that are sufficiently specific to
18 assist the public body in identifying the requested
19 records.

20 If a public body has engaged with the requestor to seek the
21 information needed to fulfill the request and to identify the
22 records sought by the requestor, including providing the requestor
23 with general topics or a specific list of records related to the
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1 request, the request may be denied if it is still not reasonably
2 specific; and

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

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2021, Section 24A.7, as
9 amended by Section 2, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 2022 (51 O.S. Supp. 2025,
10 Section 24A.7), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 24A.7. A. At the sole discretion of the public body, a
12 public body may keep personnel records confidential:

13 1. Which relate to internal personnel investigations including
14 examination and selection material for employment, hiring,
15 appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline, or resignation; or

16 2. Where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted
17 invasion of personal privacy such as employee evaluations, payroll
18 deductions, timekeeping and badge entrance information, employment
19 applications submitted by persons not hired by the public body, and
20 transcripts from institutions of higher education maintained in the
21 personnel files of certified public school employees; provided,
22 however, that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
23 exempt from disclosure the degree obtained and the curriculum on the
24 transcripts of certified public school employees.

1 B. All personnel records not specifically falling within the
2 exceptions provided in subsection A or D of this section shall be
3 available for public inspection and copying including, but not
4 limited to, records of:

5 1. An employment application of a person who becomes a public
6 official;

7 2. The gross receipts of public funds;

8 3. The dates of employment, title or position; and

9 4. Any final disciplinary action resulting in loss of pay,
10 suspension, demotion of position or termination.

11 C. Except as may otherwise be made confidential by statute, an
12 employee of a public body shall have a right of access to his or her
13 own personnel file.

14 D. The home addresses, home telephone numbers, Social Security
15 numbers, private email addresses, and private mobile phone numbers
16 of current and former public employees shall not be open to public
17 inspection or disclosure; provided, however, that nothing in this
18 subsection shall be construed to exempt from disclosure public
19 records created using a private email address or private mobile
20 phone.

21 E. Except as otherwise required by Section 6-101.16 of Title 70
22 of the Oklahoma Statutes, public bodies shall keep confidential all
23 records created pursuant to the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader
24 Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) which identify a current or
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1 former public employee and contain any evaluation, observation or
2 other TLE record of such employee.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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