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# HOUSE BILL No. 1360

AM136002 has been incorporated into January 28, 2026 printing.

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**Synopsis:** Access to public records.

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HB 1360—LS 6876/DI 119



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Reprinted  
January 28, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1360

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state and local administration.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 5-14-3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.64-2023,  
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The definitions set forth in this section apply  
4 throughout this chapter.  
5 (b) "Copy" includes transcribing by handwriting, photocopying,  
6 xerography, duplicating machine, duplicating electronically stored data  
7 onto a disk, tape, drum, or any other medium of electronic data storage,  
8 and reproducing by any other means.  
9 (c) "Criminal intelligence information" means data that has been  
10 evaluated to determine that the data is relevant to:  
11 (1) the identification of; and  
12 (2) the criminal activity engaged in by;  
13 an individual who or organization that is reasonably suspected of  
14 involvement in criminal activity.  
15 (d) **"Data scraping" means use of an automated system to**  
16 **extract data from websites and other Internet accessible sources.**  
17 (e) "Direct cost" means one hundred five percent (105%) of the

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- 1 sum of the cost of:
- 2 (1) the initial development of a program, if any;
- 3 (2) the labor required to retrieve electronically stored data;
- 4 (3) the labor required to:
- 5 (A) obscure nondisclosable information; and
- 6 (B) perform an administrative review to determine if all
- 7 nondisclosable information has been obscured;
- 8 in a law enforcement recording; and
- 9 (4) any medium used for electronic output;
- 10 for providing a duplicate of electronically stored data onto a disk, tape,
- 11 drum, or other medium of electronic data retrieval under section 8(g)
- 12 of this chapter, or for reprogramming a computer system under section
- 13 6(c) of this chapter. However, if the labor described in subdivision (3)
- 14 is performed by an attorney, the cost under subdivision (3) may not
- 15 exceed reasonable attorney's fees.
- 16 ~~(e)~~ **(f)** "Electronic map" means copyrighted data provided by a
- 17 public agency from an electronic geographic information system.
- 18 ~~(f)~~ **(g)** "Enhanced access" means the inspection of a public record
- 19 by a person other than a governmental entity and that:
- 20 (1) is by means of an electronic device other than an electronic
- 21 device provided by a public agency in the office of the public
- 22 agency; or
- 23 (2) requires the compilation or creation of a list or report that
- 24 does not result in the permanent electronic storage of the
- 25 information.
- 26 ~~(g)~~ **(h)** "Facsimile machine" means a machine that electronically
- 27 transmits exact images through connection with a telephone network.
- 28 ~~(h)~~ **(i)** "Inspect" includes the right to do the following:
- 29 (1) Manually transcribe and make notes, abstracts, or
- 30 memoranda.
- 31 (2) In the case of tape recordings or other aural public records,
- 32 to listen and manually transcribe or duplicate, or make notes,
- 33 abstracts, or other memoranda from them.
- 34 (3) In the case of public records available:
- 35 (A) by enhanced access under section 3.5 of this chapter; or
- 36 (B) to a governmental entity under section 3(c)(2) of this
- 37 chapter;
- 38 to examine and copy the public records by use of an electronic
- 39 device.
- 40 (4) In the case of electronically stored data, to manually
- 41 transcribe and make notes, abstracts, or memoranda or to
- 42 duplicate the data onto a disk, tape, drum, or any other medium

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- 1 of electronic storage.
- 2 ~~(i)~~ **(j)** "Investigatory record" means information compiled in the
- 3 course of the investigation of a crime.
- 4 ~~(j)~~ **(k)** "Law enforcement activity" means:
- 5 (1) a traffic stop;
- 6 (2) a pedestrian stop;
- 7 (3) an arrest;
- 8 (4) a search;
- 9 (5) an investigation;
- 10 (6) a pursuit;
- 11 (7) crowd control;
- 12 (8) traffic control; or
- 13 (9) any other instance in which a law enforcement officer is
- 14 enforcing the law.
- 15 The term does not include an administrative activity, including the
- 16 completion of paperwork related to a law enforcement activity, or a
- 17 custodial interrogation conducted in a place of detention as described
- 18 in Indiana Evidence Rule 617, regardless of the ultimate admissibility
- 19 of a statement made during the custodial interrogation.
- 20 ~~(k)~~ **(l)** "Law enforcement recording" means an audio, visual, or
- 21 audiovisual recording of a law enforcement activity captured by a
- 22 camera or other device that is:
- 23 (1) provided to or used by a law enforcement officer in the scope
- 24 of the officer's duties; and
- 25 (2) designed to be worn by a law enforcement officer or attached
- 26 to the vehicle or transportation of a law enforcement officer.
- 27 ~~(l)~~ **(m)** "Offender" means a person confined in a prison, county
- 28 jail, detention facility, penal institution, or in a community corrections
- 29 program as the result of the person's arrest or conviction for a crime.
- 30 ~~(m)~~ **(n)** "Patient" has the meaning set out in IC 16-18-2-272(d).
- 31 ~~(n)~~ **(o)** "Person" means an individual, a corporation, a limited
- 32 liability company, a partnership, an unincorporated association, or a
- 33 governmental entity.
- 34 **(p) "Phishing" means a method of obtaining information**
- 35 **through fraud in which the sender of a communication**
- 36 **intentionally misrepresents the identity of the sender in order to**
- 37 **induce the recipient of the communication to:**
- 38 **(1) divulge the information to the sender; or**
- 39 **(2) take an action that allows the sender access to the**
- 40 **information.**
- 41 ~~(o)~~ **(q)** "Private university police department" means the police
- 42 officers appointed by the governing board of a private university under

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1 IC 21-17-5.

2 ~~(p)~~ (r) "Provider" has the meaning set out in IC 16-18-2-295(b)  
3 and includes employees of the Indiana department of health or local  
4 boards of health who create patient records at the request of another  
5 provider or who are social workers and create records concerning the  
6 family background of children who may need assistance.

7 ~~(q)~~ (s) "Public agency", except as provided in section 2.1 of this  
8 chapter, means the following:

9 (1) Any board, commission, department, division, bureau,  
10 committee, agency, office, instrumentality, or authority, by  
11 whatever name designated, exercising any part of the executive,  
12 administrative, judicial, or legislative power of the state.

13 (2) Any:

14 (A) county, township, school corporation, city, or town, or  
15 any board, commission, department, division, bureau,  
16 committee, office, instrumentality, or authority of any  
17 county, township, school corporation, city, or town;

18 (B) political subdivision (as defined by IC 36-1-2-13); or

19 (C) other entity, or any office thereof, by whatever name  
20 designated, exercising in a limited geographical area the  
21 executive, administrative, judicial, or legislative power of  
22 the state or a delegated local governmental power.

23 (3) Any entity or office that is subject to:

24 (A) budget review by either the department of local  
25 government finance or the governing body of a county, city,  
26 town, township, or school corporation; or

27 (B) an audit by the state board of accounts that is required  
28 by statute, rule, or regulation.

29 (4) Any building corporation of a political subdivision that issues  
30 bonds for the purpose of constructing public facilities.

31 (5) Any advisory commission, committee, or body created by  
32 statute, ordinance, or executive order to advise the governing  
33 body of a public agency, except medical staffs or the committees  
34 of any such staff.

35 (6) Any law enforcement agency, which means an agency or a  
36 department of any level of government that engages in the  
37 investigation, apprehension, arrest, or prosecution of alleged  
38 criminal offenders, such as the state police department, the  
39 police or sheriff's department of a political subdivision,  
40 prosecuting attorneys, members of the excise police division of  
41 the alcohol and tobacco commission, conservation officers of the  
42 department of natural resources, gaming agents of the Indiana

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1 gaming commission, gaming control officers of the Indiana  
2 gaming commission, and the security division of the state lottery  
3 commission.

4 (7) Any license branch operated under IC 9-14.1.

5 (8) The state lottery commission established by IC 4-30-3-1,  
6 including any department, division, or office of the commission.

7 (9) The Indiana gaming commission established under IC 4-33,  
8 including any department, division, or office of the commission.

9 (10) The Indiana horse racing commission established by  
10 IC 4-31, including any department, division, or office of the  
11 commission.

12 (11) A private university police department. The term does not  
13 include the governing board of a private university or any other  
14 department, division, board, entity, or office of a private  
15 university.

16 (†) (t) "Public record" means any writing, paper, report, study,  
17 map, photograph, book, card, tape recording, or other material that is  
18 created, received, retained, maintained, or filed by or with a public  
19 agency and which is generated on paper, paper substitutes,  
20 photographic media, chemically based media, magnetic or machine  
21 readable media, electronically stored data, or any other material,  
22 regardless of form or characteristics.

23 (‡) (u) "Standard-sized documents" includes all documents that  
24 can be mechanically reproduced (without mechanical reduction) on  
25 paper sized eight and one-half (8 1/2) inches by eleven (11) inches or  
26 eight and one-half (8 1/2) inches by fourteen (14) inches.

27 (†) (v) "Trade secret" has the meaning set forth in IC 24-2-3-2.

28 (†) (w) "Work product of an attorney" means information  
29 compiled by an attorney in reasonable anticipation of litigation. The  
30 term includes the attorney's:

31 (1) notes and statements taken during interviews of prospective  
32 witnesses; and

33 (2) legal research or records, correspondence, reports, or  
34 memoranda to the extent that each contains the attorney's  
35 opinions, theories, or conclusions.

36 This definition does not restrict the application of any exception under  
37 section 4 of this chapter.

38 SECTION 2. IC 5-14-3-3.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
39 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
40 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.3. (a) A public agency may establish and maintain  
41 an electronic portal for submission of public records requests that:**

42 **(1) incorporates Completely Automated Public Turing test**

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1           **to tell Computers and Humans Apart (CAPTCHA) or an**  
 2           **equivalent mechanism for ensuring that a requestor is a**  
 3           **human;**  
 4           **(2) requires verification of a requestor's physical address;**  
 5           **(3) indicates to the public agency whether the requestor is a**  
 6           **resident of Indiana; and**  
 7           **(4) automatically logs and reports submissions suspected to**  
 8           **be automated or to have originated from known sources of**  
 9           **phishing or data scraping.**  
 10          **(b) A public agency may decline to respond to a public records**  
 11          **request that is submitted to the public agency electronically if one**  
 12          **(1) or more of the following apply:**  
 13               **(1) The public agency suspects the request to be data**  
 14               **scraping or phishing activity.**  
 15               **(2) The public agency suspects that responding to the request**  
 16               **electronically may:**  
 17                       **(A) expose the public agency's electronic systems or data**  
 18                       **to unauthorized access or alteration; or**  
 19                       **(B) otherwise jeopardize the security of the public**  
 20                       **agency's electronic systems or data.**  
 21          **(c) Not later than seven (7) days after a public agency receives**  
 22          **a public records request to which the public agency declines to**  
 23          **respond under subsection (b), the public agency shall notify the**  
 24          **public access counselor of the request and the reason under**  
 25          **subsection (b) for which the public agency has declined to respond**  
 26          **to the request.**  
 27          SECTION 3. IC 5-14-3-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.33-2025,  
 28          SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 29          JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The following public records are excepted  
 30          from section 3 of this chapter and may not be disclosed by a public  
 31          agency, unless access to the records is specifically required by a state  
 32          or federal statute or is ordered by a court under the rules of discovery:  
 33               (1) Those declared confidential by state statute.  
 34               (2) Those declared confidential by rule adopted by a public  
 35               agency under specific authority to classify public records as  
 36               confidential granted to the public agency by statute.  
 37               (3) Those required to be kept confidential by federal law.  
 38               (4) Records containing trade secrets.  
 39               (5) Confidential financial information obtained, upon request,  
 40               from a person. However, this does not include information that  
 41               is filed with or received by a public agency pursuant to state  
 42               statute.

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- 1 (6) Information concerning research, including actual research  
 2 documents, conducted under the auspices of a state educational  
 3 institution, including information:  
 4 (A) concerning any negotiations made with respect to the  
 5 research; and  
 6 (B) received from another party involved in the research.  
 7 (7) Grade transcripts and license examination scores obtained as  
 8 part of a licensure process.  
 9 (8) Those declared confidential by or under rules adopted by the  
 10 supreme court of Indiana.  
 11 (9) Patient medical records and charts created by a provider,  
 12 unless the patient gives written consent under IC 16-39 or as  
 13 provided under IC 16-41-8.  
 14 (10) Application information declared confidential by the  
 15 Indiana economic development corporation under IC 5-28.  
 16 (11) A photograph, a video recording, or an audio recording of  
 17 an autopsy, except as provided in IC 36-2-14-10.  
 18 (12) A Social Security number contained in the records of a  
 19 public agency.  
 20 (13) The following information that is part of a foreclosure  
 21 action subject to IC 32-30-10.5:  
 22 (A) Contact information for a debtor, as described in  
 23 IC 32-30-10.5-8(d)(1)(B).  
 24 (B) Any document submitted to the court as part of the  
 25 debtor's loss mitigation package under  
 26 IC 32-30-10.5-10(a)(3).  
 27 (14) The following information obtained from a call made to a  
 28 fraud hotline established under IC 36-1-8-8.5:  
 29 (A) The identity of any individual who makes a call to the  
 30 fraud hotline.  
 31 (B) A report, transcript, audio recording, or other  
 32 information concerning a call to the fraud hotline.  
 33 However, records described in this subdivision may be disclosed  
 34 to a law enforcement agency, a private university police  
 35 department, the attorney general, the inspector general, the state  
 36 examiner, or a prosecuting attorney.  
 37 (15) Information described in section 5(c)(3)(B) of this chapter  
 38 that is contained in a daily log or record described in section 5(c)  
 39 of this chapter for a victim of a crime or delinquent act who is  
 40 less than eighteen (18) years of age, unless and to the extent that:  
 41 (A) a parent, guardian, or custodian of the victim consents  
 42 in writing to public disclosure of the records; and

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1 (B) that parent, guardian, or custodian of the victim has not  
2 been charged with or convicted of committing a crime  
3 against the victim.

4 However, records described in this subdivision may be disclosed  
5 to the department of child services.

6 (b) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (a), the following  
7 public records shall be excepted from section 3 of this chapter at the  
8 discretion of a public agency:

9 (1) Investigatory records of law enforcement agencies or private  
10 university police departments. For purposes of this chapter, a law  
11 enforcement recording is not an investigatory record. However,  
12 information described in subsection (a)(15) contained in a law  
13 enforcement recording is exempt from disclosure, unless and to  
14 the extent that a parent, guardian, or custodian of the victim  
15 consents in writing to public disclosure of the records. However,  
16 a parent, guardian, or custodian charged with or convicted of a  
17 crime against the victim may not consent to public disclosure of  
18 the records. Law enforcement agencies or private university  
19 police departments may share investigatory records with:

20 (A) a person who advocates on behalf of a crime victim,  
21 including a victim advocate (as defined in IC 35-37-6-3.5)  
22 or a victim service provider (as defined in IC 35-37-6-5),  
23 for the purposes of providing services to a victim or  
24 describing services that may be available to a victim;

25 (B) a school corporation (as defined by IC 20-18-2-16(a)),  
26 charter school (as defined by IC 20-24-1-4), or nonpublic  
27 school (as defined by IC 20-18-2-12) for the purpose of  
28 enhancing the safety or security of a student or a school  
29 facility; and

30 (C) the victim services division of the Indiana criminal  
31 justice institute under IC 5-2-6-8, for the purposes of  
32 conducting an investigation under IC 5-2-6.1-26;

33 without the law enforcement agency or private university police  
34 department losing its discretion to keep those records  
35 confidential from other records requesters. However, certain law  
36 enforcement records must be made available for inspection and  
37 copying as provided in section 5 of this chapter.

38 (2) The work product of an attorney representing, pursuant to  
39 state employment or an appointment by a public agency:

40 (A) a public agency;

41 (B) the state; or

42 (C) an individual.

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- 1 (3) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used  
 2 in administering a licensing examination, examination for  
 3 employment, or academic examination before the examination  
 4 is given or if it is to be given again.  
 5 (4) Scores of tests if the person is identified by name and has not  
 6 consented to the release of the person's scores.  
 7 (5) The following:  
 8 (A) Records relating to negotiations between:  
 9 (i) the Indiana economic development corporation;  
 10 (ii) the ports of Indiana;  
 11 (iii) the Indiana state department of agriculture;  
 12 (iv) the Indiana finance authority;  
 13 (v) an economic development commission;  
 14 (vi) the Indiana White River state park development  
 15 commission;  
 16 (vii) a local economic development organization that is  
 17 a nonprofit corporation established under state law  
 18 whose primary purpose is the promotion of industrial  
 19 or business development in Indiana, the retention or  
 20 expansion of Indiana businesses, or the development of  
 21 entrepreneurial activities in Indiana; or  
 22 (viii) a governing body of a political subdivision;  
 23 with industrial, research, or commercial prospects, if the  
 24 records are created while negotiations are in progress.  
 25 However, this clause does not apply to records regarding  
 26 research that is prohibited under IC 16-34.5-1-2 or any  
 27 other law.  
 28 (B) Notwithstanding clause (A), the terms of the final offer  
 29 of public financial resources communicated by the Indiana  
 30 economic development corporation, the ports of Indiana, the  
 31 Indiana finance authority, an economic development  
 32 commission, the Indiana White River state park  
 33 development commission, or a governing body of a political  
 34 subdivision to an industrial, a research, or a commercial  
 35 prospect shall be available for inspection and copying under  
 36 section 3 of this chapter after negotiations with that  
 37 prospect have terminated.  
 38 (C) When disclosing a final offer under clause (B), the  
 39 Indiana economic development corporation shall certify that  
 40 the information being disclosed accurately and completely  
 41 represents the terms of the final offer.  
 42 (D) Notwithstanding clause (A), an incentive agreement

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- 1 with an incentive recipient shall be available for inspection
- 2 and copying under section 3 of this chapter after the date
- 3 the incentive recipient and the Indiana economic
- 4 development corporation execute the incentive agreement
- 5 regardless of whether negotiations are in progress with the
- 6 recipient after that date regarding a modification or
- 7 extension of the incentive agreement.
- 8 (6) Records that are intra-agency or interagency advisory or
- 9 deliberative material, including material developed by a private
- 10 contractor under a contract with a public agency, that are
- 11 expressions of opinion or are of a speculative nature, and that are
- 12 communicated for the purpose of decision making.
- 13 (7) Diaries, journals, or other personal notes serving as the
- 14 functional equivalent of a diary or journal.
- 15 (8) Personnel files of public employees and files of applicants for
- 16 public employment, except for:
  - 17 (A) the name, compensation, job title, business address,
  - 18 business telephone number, job description, education and
  - 19 training background, previous work experience, or dates of
  - 20 first and last employment of present or former officers or
  - 21 employees of the agency;
  - 22 (B) information relating to the status of any formal charges
  - 23 against the employee; and
  - 24 (C) the factual basis for a disciplinary action in which final
  - 25 action has been taken and that resulted in the employee
  - 26 being suspended, demoted, or discharged.
- 27 However, all personnel file information shall be made available
- 28 to the affected employee or the employee's representative. This
- 29 subdivision does not apply to disclosure of personnel
- 30 information generally on all employees or for groups of
- 31 employees without the request being particularized by employee
- 32 name.
- 33 (9) Minutes or records of hospital medical staff meetings.
- 34 (10) Administrative or technical information that would
- 35 jeopardize a record keeping system, voting system, voter
- 36 registration system, or security system.
- 37 (11) Computer programs, computer codes, computer filing
- 38 systems, and other software that are owned by the public agency
- 39 or entrusted to it and portions of electronic maps entrusted to a
- 40 public agency by a utility.
- 41 (12) Records specifically prepared for discussion or developed
- 42 during discussion in an executive session under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1.

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- 1           However, this subdivision does not apply to that information
- 2           required to be available for inspection and copying under
- 3           subdivision (8).
- 4           (13) The work product of the legislative services agency under
- 5           personnel rules approved by the legislative council.
- 6           (14) The work product of individual members and the partisan
- 7           staffs of the general assembly.
- 8           (15) The identity of a donor of a gift made to a public agency if:
- 9                 (A) the donor requires nondisclosure of the donor's identity
- 10                as a condition of making the gift; or
- 11                (B) after the gift is made, the donor or a member of the
- 12                donor's family requests nondisclosure.
- 13           (16) Library or archival records:
- 14                (A) which can be used to identify any library patron; or
- 15                (B) deposited with or acquired by a library upon a condition
- 16                that the records be disclosed only:
- 17                   (i) to qualified researchers;
- 18                   (ii) after the passing of a period of years that is
- 19                   specified in the documents under which the deposit or
- 20                   acquisition is made; or
- 21                   (iii) after the death of persons specified at the time of
- 22                   the acquisition or deposit.
- 23           However, nothing in this subdivision shall limit or affect
- 24           contracts entered into by the Indiana state library pursuant to
- 25           IC 4-1-6-8.
- 26           (17) The identity of any person who contacts the bureau of motor
- 27           vehicles concerning the ability of a driver to operate a motor
- 28           vehicle safely and the medical records and evaluations made by
- 29           the bureau of motor vehicles staff or members of the driver
- 30           licensing medical advisory board regarding the ability of a driver
- 31           to operate a motor vehicle safely. However, upon written request
- 32           to the commissioner of the bureau of motor vehicles, the driver
- 33           must be given copies of the driver's medical records and
- 34           evaluations.
- 35           (18) School safety and security measures, plans, and systems,
- 36           including emergency preparedness plans developed under 511
- 37           IAC 6.1-2-2.5.
- 38           (19) A record or a part of a record, the public disclosure of
- 39           which would have a reasonable likelihood of threatening public
- 40           safety by exposing a vulnerability to terrorist attack. A record
- 41           described under this subdivision includes the following:
- 42                (A) A record assembled, prepared, or maintained to prevent,

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- 1 mitigate, or respond to an act of terrorism under
- 2 IC 35-47-12-1 (before its repeal), an act of agricultural
- 3 terrorism under IC 35-47-12-2 (before its repeal), or a
- 4 felony terrorist offense (as defined in IC 35-50-2-18).
- 5 (B) Vulnerability assessments.
- 6 (C) Risk planning documents.
- 7 (D) Needs assessments.
- 8 (E) Threat assessments.
- 9 (F) Intelligence assessments.
- 10 (G) Domestic preparedness strategies.
- 11 (H) The location of community drinking water wells and
- 12 surface water intakes.
- 13 (I) The emergency contact information of emergency
- 14 responders and volunteers.
- 15 (J) Infrastructure records that disclose the configuration of
- 16 critical systems such as voting system and voter registration
- 17 system critical infrastructure, and communication,
- 18 electrical, ventilation, water, and wastewater systems.
- 19 (K) Detailed drawings or specifications of structural
- 20 elements, floor plans, and operating, utility, or security
- 21 systems, whether in paper or electronic form, of any
- 22 building or facility located on an airport (as defined in
- 23 IC 8-21-1-1) that is owned, occupied, leased, or maintained
- 24 by a public agency, or any part of a law enforcement
- 25 recording that captures information about airport security
- 26 procedures, areas, or systems. A record described in this
- 27 clause may not be released for public inspection by any
- 28 public agency without the prior approval of the public
- 29 agency that owns, occupies, leases, or maintains the airport.
- 30 Both of the following apply to the public agency that owns,
- 31 occupies, leases, or maintains the airport:
- 32 (i) The public agency is responsible for determining
- 33 whether the public disclosure of a record or a part of a
- 34 record, including a law enforcement recording, has a
- 35 reasonable likelihood of threatening public safety by
- 36 exposing a security procedure, area, system, or
- 37 vulnerability to terrorist attack.
- 38 (ii) The public agency must identify a record described
- 39 under item (i) and clearly mark the record as
- 40 "confidential and not subject to public disclosure under
- 41 IC 5-14-3-4(b)(19)(J) without approval of (insert name
- 42 of submitting public agency)". However, in the case of

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- 1 a law enforcement recording, the public agency must
- 2 clearly mark the record as "confidential and not subject
- 3 to public disclosure under IC 5-14-3-4(b)(19)(K)
- 4 without approval of (insert name of the public agency
- 5 that owns, occupies, leases, or maintains the airport)".
- 6 (L) The home address, home telephone number, and
- 7 emergency contact information for any:
  - 8 (i) emergency management worker (as defined in
  - 9 IC 10-14-3-3);
  - 10 (ii) public safety officer (as defined in IC 35-47-4.5-3);
  - 11 (iii) emergency medical responder (as defined in
  - 12 IC 16-18-2-109.8); or
  - 13 (iv) advanced emergency medical technician (as
  - 14 defined in IC 16-18-2-6.5).
- 15 (M) Information relating to security measures or
- 16 precautions used to secure the statewide 911 system under
- 17 IC 36-8-16.7.
- 18 This subdivision does not apply to a record or portion of a record
- 19 pertaining to a location or structure owned or protected by a
- 20 public agency in the event that an act of terrorism under
- 21 IC 35-47-12-1 (before its repeal), an act of agricultural terrorism
- 22 under IC 35-47-12-2 (before its repeal), or a felony terrorist
- 23 offense (as defined in IC 35-50-2-18) has occurred at that
- 24 location or structure, unless release of the record or portion of
- 25 the record would have a reasonable likelihood of threatening
- 26 public safety by exposing a vulnerability of other locations or
- 27 structures to terrorist attack.
- 28 (20) The following personal information concerning a customer
- 29 of a municipally owned utility (as defined in IC 8-1-2-1):
  - 30 (A) Telephone number.
  - 31 (B) Address.
  - 32 (C) Social Security number.
- 33 (21) The following personal information about a complainant
- 34 contained in records of a law enforcement agency:
  - 35 (A) Telephone number.
  - 36 (B) The complainant's address. However, if the
  - 37 complainant's address is the location of the suspected crime,
  - 38 infraction, accident, or complaint reported, the address shall
  - 39 be made available for public inspection and copying.
- 40 (22) Notwithstanding subdivision (8)(A), the name,
- 41 compensation, job title, business address, business telephone
- 42 number, job description, education and training background,

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1 previous work experience, or dates of first employment of a law  
2 enforcement officer who is operating in an undercover capacity.  
3 (23) Records requested by an offender, an agent, or a relative of  
4 an offender that:

- 5 (A) contain personal information relating to:
  - 6 (i) a correctional officer (as defined in IC 5-10-10-1.5);
  - 7 (ii) a probation officer;
  - 8 (iii) a community corrections officer;
  - 9 (iv) a law enforcement officer (as defined in  
10 IC 35-31.5-2-185);
  - 11 (v) a judge (as defined in IC 33-38-12-3);
  - 12 (vi) the victim of a crime; or
  - 13 (vii) a family member of a correctional officer,  
14 probation officer, community corrections officer, law  
15 enforcement officer (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-185),  
16 judge (as defined in IC 33-38-12-3), or victim of a  
17 crime; or
- 18 (B) concern or could affect the security of a jail or  
19 correctional facility.

20 For purposes of this subdivision, "agent" means a person who is  
21 authorized by an offender to act on behalf of, or at the direction  
22 of, the offender, and "relative" has the meaning set forth in  
23 IC 35-42-2-1(b). However, the term "agent" does not include an  
24 attorney in good standing admitted to the practice of law in  
25 Indiana.

26 (24) Information concerning an individual less than eighteen  
27 (18) years of age who participates in a conference, meeting,  
28 program, or activity conducted or supervised by a state  
29 educational institution, including the following information  
30 regarding the individual or the individual's parent or guardian:

- 31 (A) Name.
- 32 (B) Address.
- 33 (C) Telephone number.
- 34 (D) Electronic mail account address.

35 (25) Criminal intelligence information.

36 (26) The following information contained in a report of  
37 unclaimed property under IC 32-34-1.5-18 or in a claim for  
38 unclaimed property under IC 32-34-1.5-48:

- 39 (A) Date of birth.
- 40 (B) Driver's license number.
- 41 (C) Taxpayer identification number.
- 42 (D) Employer identification number.

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1 (E) Account number.

2 (27) Except as provided in subdivision (19) and sections 5.1 and

3 5.2 of this chapter, a law enforcement recording. However,

4 before disclosing the recording, the public agency must comply

5 with the obscuring requirements of sections 5.1 and 5.2 of this

6 chapter, if applicable.

7 (28) Records relating to negotiations between a state educational

8 institution and another entity concerning the establishment of a

9 collaborative relationship or venture to advance the research,

10 engagement, or educational mission of the state educational

11 institution, if the records are created while negotiations are in

12 progress. The terms of the final offer of public financial

13 resources communicated by the state educational institution to

14 an industrial, a research, or a commercial prospect shall be

15 available for inspection and copying under section 3 of this

16 chapter after negotiations with that prospect have terminated.

17 However, this subdivision does not apply to records regarding

18 research prohibited under IC 16-34.5-1-2 or any other law.

19 (c) Nothing contained in subsection (b) shall limit or affect the

20 right of a person to inspect and copy a public record required or

21 directed to be made by any statute or by any rule of a public agency.

22 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, a public record that is

23 classified as confidential, other than a record concerning:

24 (1) an adoption or patient medical records; or

25 (2) a birth or stillbirth;

26 shall be made available for inspection and copying seventy-five (75)

27 years after the creation of that record. A registration or certificate of a

28 birth or stillbirth shall be made available in accordance with

29 IC 16-37-1-7.5.

30 (e) **A public agency may deny a request under this chapter for**

31 **a record if the request:**

32 **(1) is made by a person that is a party to pending or ongoing**

33 **litigation; and**

34 **(2) is duplicative of a discovery request made by the person**

35 **in the pending or ongoing litigation.**

36 (f) Only the content of a public record may form the basis for

37 the adoption by any public agency of a rule or procedure creating an

38 exception from disclosure under this section.

39 (g) Except as provided by law, a public agency may not adopt

40 a rule or procedure that creates an exception from disclosure under this

41 section based upon whether a public record is stored or accessed using

42 paper, electronic media, magnetic media, optical media, or other

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1 information storage technology.

2 ~~(g)~~ (h) Except as provided by law, a public agency may not adopt  
3 a rule or procedure nor impose any costs or liabilities that impede or  
4 restrict the reproduction or dissemination of any public record.

5 ~~(h)~~ (i) Notwithstanding subsection (d) and section 7 of this  
6 chapter:

7 (1) public records subject to IC 5-15 may be destroyed only in  
8 accordance with record retention schedules under IC 5-15; or

9 (2) public records not subject to IC 5-15 may be destroyed in the  
10 ordinary course of business.

11 SECTION 4. IC 5-14-3-4.4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.249-2019,  
12 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.4. (a) This section applies to a request for a  
14 record that the public agency considers to be excepted from disclosure  
15 under section 4(b)(1) or 4(b)(25) of this chapter. The public agency  
16 may do either of the following:

17 (1) Deny disclosure of the record or a part of the record. The  
18 person requesting the information may appeal the denial under  
19 section 9 of this chapter.

20 (2) Refuse to confirm or deny the existence of the record,  
21 regardless of whether the record exists or does not exist, if the  
22 fact of the record's existence or nonexistence would reveal  
23 information that would:

24 (A) impede or compromise an ongoing law enforcement  
25 investigation or result in danger to an individual's safety,  
26 including the safety of a law enforcement officer or a  
27 confidential source; or

28 (B) reveal information that would have a reasonable  
29 likelihood of threatening public safety.

30 (b) This subsection applies to a request for a record that the public  
31 agency considers to be excepted from disclosure under section 4(b)(19)  
32 of this chapter. The agency may consult with the governor's security  
33 council established by IC 10-19-8.1-2 in formulating a response. The  
34 public agency may do either of the following:

35 (1) Deny disclosure of the record or a part of the record. The  
36 agency or the counterterrorism and security council shall provide  
37 a general description of the record being withheld and of how  
38 disclosure of the record would have a reasonable likelihood of  
39 threatening public safety by exposing a vulnerability to terrorist  
40 attack. The person requesting the information may appeal the  
41 denial under section 9 of this chapter.

42 (2) Refuse to confirm or deny the existence of the record

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1 regardless of whether the record exists or does not exist, if the  
 2 fact of the record's existence or nonexistence would reveal  
 3 information that would have a reasonable likelihood of  
 4 threatening public safety.

5 (c) If a public agency does not respond to a request for a record  
 6 under this section:

7 (1) within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the request for a  
 8 record from a person who:

9 (A) is physically present in the agency office;

10 (B) makes the request by telephone; or

11 (C) requests enhanced access to a document; or

12 (2) within seven (7) days of receiving the request for a record  
 13 made by mail, **or by facsimile, or through an electronic portal**  
 14 **under section 3.3 of this chapter;**

15 the request for the record is deemed denied. The person requesting the  
 16 information may appeal the denial under section 9 of this chapter.

17 (d) If a public agency refuses to confirm or deny the existence of  
 18 a record under this section, the name and title or position of the person  
 19 responsible for the refusal shall be given to the person making the  
 20 records request.

21 (e) A person who has received a refusal from an agency to confirm  
 22 or deny the existence of a record may file an action in the circuit or  
 23 superior court of the county in which the response was received:

24 (1) to compel the public agency to confirm whether the record  
 25 exists or does not exist; and

26 (2) if the public agency confirms that the record exists, to  
 27 compel the agency to permit the person to inspect and copy the  
 28 record.

29 (f) The court shall determine the matter de novo, with the burden  
 30 of proof on the public agency to sustain its refusal to confirm or deny  
 31 the existence of the record. The public agency meets its burden of proof  
 32 by filing a public affidavit with the court that provides with reasonable  
 33 specificity of detail, and not simply conclusory statements, the basis of  
 34 the agency's claim that it cannot be required to confirm or deny the  
 35 existence of the requested record. If the public agency meets its burden  
 36 of proof, the burden of proof shifts to the person requesting access to  
 37 the record. The person requesting access to the record meets the  
 38 person's burden of proof by proving any of the following:

39 (1) The agency's justifications for not confirming the existence  
 40 of the record contradict other evidence in the trial record.

41 (2) The agency is withholding the record in bad faith.

42 (3) An official with authority to speak for the agency has

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1 acknowledged to the public in a documented disclosure that the  
 2 record exists. The person requesting the record must prove that  
 3 the information requested:  
 4 (A) is as specific as the information previously disclosed;  
 5 and  
 6 (B) matches the previously disclosed information.  
 7 (g) Either party may make an interlocutory appeal of the trial  
 8 court's determination on whether the agency's refusal to confirm or  
 9 deny the existence of the record was proper.  
 10 (h) If the court, after the disposition of any interlocutory appeals,  
 11 finds that the agency's refusal to confirm or deny was improper, the  
 12 court shall order the agency to disclose whether the record exists or  
 13 does not exist. If the record exists and the agency claims that the record  
 14 is exempt from disclosure under this chapter, the court may review the  
 15 public record in camera to determine whether any part of the record  
 16 may be withheld.  
 17 (i) In an action filed under this section, the court shall award  
 18 reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses  
 19 of litigation to the prevailing party if:  
 20 (1) the plaintiff substantially prevails; or  
 21 (2) the defendant substantially prevails and the court finds the  
 22 action was frivolous or vexatious.  
 23 A plaintiff is eligible for the awarding of attorney's fees, court costs,  
 24 and other reasonable expenses regardless of whether the plaintiff filed  
 25 the action without first seeking and receiving an informal inquiry  
 26 response or advisory opinion from the public access counselor.  
 27 (j) A court that hears an action under this section may not assess  
 28 a civil penalty under section 9.5 of this chapter in connection with the  
 29 action.  
 30 SECTION 5. IC 5-14-3-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.287-2019,  
 31 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) For the purposes of this section, "state  
 33 agency" has the meaning set forth in IC 4-13-1-1.  
 34 (b) Except as provided in this section, a public agency may not  
 35 charge any fee under this chapter for the following:  
 36 (1) To inspect a public record.  
 37 (2) This subdivision applies only to a school corporation and a  
 38 charter school. This subdivision does not apply to a request for  
 39 a search by an exclusive representative (as defined in  
 40 IC 20-29-2-9). To search for a record that is in an electronic  
 41 format, if the search does not exceed five (5) hours.  
 42 (3) Subject to subdivision (2), to search for, examine, or review

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1 a record to determine whether the record may be disclosed.  
 2 (4) To provide an electronic copy of a public record by  
 3 electronic mail. However, a public agency may charge a fee for  
 4 a public record transmitted by electronic mail if the fee for the  
 5 public record is authorized under:  
 6 (A) subsection (f) or (j);  
 7 (B) section 6(c) of this chapter; or  
 8 (C) IC 36-2-7-10 or IC 36-2-7-10.1 concerning records of  
 9 the county recorder.  
 10 (c) The Indiana department of administration shall establish a  
 11 uniform copying fee for the copying of one (1) page of a standard-sized  
 12 document by state agencies. The fee may not exceed the average cost  
 13 of copying records by state agencies or ten cents (\$0.10) per page,  
 14 whichever is greater. **Except as provided in subsection (n)**, a state  
 15 agency may not collect more than the uniform copying fee for  
 16 providing a copy of a public record. However, a state agency shall  
 17 establish and collect a reasonable fee for copying nonstandard-sized  
 18 documents.  
 19 (d) This subsection applies to a public agency that is not a state  
 20 agency. The fiscal body (as defined in IC 36-1-2-6) of the public  
 21 agency, or the governing body, if there is no fiscal body, shall establish  
 22 a fee schedule for the certification or copying of documents. The fee for  
 23 certification of documents may not exceed five dollars (\$5) per  
 24 document. The fee for copying documents may not exceed the greater  
 25 of:  
 26 (1) ten cents (\$0.10) per page for copies that are not color copies  
 27 or twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for color copies; or  
 28 (2) the actual cost to the agency of copying the document.  
 29 As used in this subsection, "actual cost" means the cost of paper and  
 30 the per-page cost for use of copying or facsimile equipment and does  
 31 not include labor costs or overhead costs. A fee established under this  
 32 subsection must be uniform throughout the public agency and uniform  
 33 to all purchasers.  
 34 (e) If:  
 35 (1) a person is entitled to a copy of a public record under this  
 36 chapter; and  
 37 (2) the public agency which is in possession of the record has  
 38 reasonable access to a machine capable of reproducing the  
 39 public record;  
 40 the public agency must provide at least one (1) copy of the public  
 41 record to the person. However, if a public agency does not have  
 42 reasonable access to a machine capable of reproducing the record or if

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1 the person cannot reproduce the record by use of enhanced access  
 2 under section 3.5 of this chapter, the person is only entitled to inspect  
 3 and manually transcribe the record. A public agency may require that  
 4 the payment for search and copying costs be made in advance.

5 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), ~~or (i), or (n)~~,  
 6 a public agency shall collect any certification, copying, facsimile  
 7 machine transmission, or search fee that is specified by statute or is  
 8 ordered by a court.

9 (g) Except as provided by subsection (h), for providing a duplicate  
 10 of a computer tape, computer disc, microfilm, law enforcement  
 11 recording, or similar or analogous record system containing  
 12 information owned by the public agency or entrusted to it, a public  
 13 agency may charge a fee, uniform to all purchasers, that does not  
 14 exceed the sum of the following:

15 (1) The agency's direct cost of supplying the information in that  
 16 form. However, the fee for a copy of a law enforcement  
 17 recording may not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

18 (2) The standard cost for selling the same information to the  
 19 public in the form of a publication if the agency has published  
 20 the information and made the publication available for sale.

21 (3) In the case of the legislative services agency, a reasonable  
 22 percentage of the agency's direct cost of maintaining the system  
 23 in which the information is stored. However, the amount charged  
 24 by the legislative services agency under this subdivision may not  
 25 exceed the sum of the amounts it may charge under subdivisions  
 26 (1) and (2).

27 (h) This subsection applies to the fee charged by a public agency  
 28 for providing enhanced access to a public record. A public agency may  
 29 charge any reasonable fee agreed on in the contract under section 3.5  
 30 of this chapter for providing enhanced access to public records.

31 (i) This subsection applies to the fee charged by a public agency  
 32 for permitting a governmental entity to inspect public records by means  
 33 of an electronic device. A public agency may charge any reasonable fee  
 34 for the inspection of public records under this subsection, or the public  
 35 agency may waive any fee for the inspection.

36 (j) Except as provided in subsection (k), a public agency may  
 37 charge a fee, uniform to all purchasers, for providing an electronic map  
 38 that is based upon a reasonable percentage of the agency's direct cost  
 39 of maintaining, upgrading, and enhancing the electronic map and for  
 40 the direct cost of supplying the electronic map in the form requested by  
 41 the purchaser. If the public agency is within a political subdivision  
 42 having a fiscal body, the fee is subject to the approval of the fiscal body

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1 of the political subdivision.  
2 (k) The fee charged by a public agency under subsection (j) to  
3 cover costs for maintaining, upgrading, and enhancing an electronic  
4 map may be waived by the public agency if the electronic map for  
5 which the fee is charged will be used for a noncommercial purpose,  
6 including the following:

- 7 (1) Public agency program support.
- 8 (2) Nonprofit activities.
- 9 (3) Journalism.
- 10 (4) Academic research.

11 (l) This subsection does not apply to a state agency. A fee  
12 collected under subsection (g) for the copying of a law enforcement  
13 recording may be:

- 14 (1) retained by the public agency; and
- 15 (2) used without appropriation for one (1) or more of the  
16 following purposes:
  - 17 (A) To purchase cameras and other equipment for use in  
18 connection with the agency's law enforcement recording  
19 program.
  - 20 (B) For training concerning law enforcement recording.
  - 21 (C) To defray the expenses of storing, producing, and  
22 copying law enforcement recordings.

23 Money from a fee described in this subsection does not revert to the  
24 local general fund at the end of a fiscal year.

25 (m) This subsection applies to a school corporation and a charter  
26 school. For purposes of this subsection, "computer processing time"  
27 means the amount of time a computer takes to process a command or  
28 script to extract or copy electronically stored data that is the subject of  
29 a public records request. A school corporation or charter school may  
30 not charge a fee for the first five (5) hours required to search for  
31 records that are in an electronic format. A school corporation or charter  
32 school may charge a search fee for any time spent searching for records  
33 that are in an electronic format that exceeds five (5) hours. If the school  
34 corporation or charter school charges a search fee, the school  
35 corporation or charter school shall charge an hourly fee that does not  
36 exceed the lesser of:

- 37 (1) the hourly rate of the person making the search; or
- 38 (2) twenty dollars (\$20) per hour.

39 A school corporation or charter school charging an hourly fee under  
40 this subsection for searching for records that are in an electronic format  
41 may charge only for time that the person making the search actually  
42 spends in searching for the records that are in an electronic format. A

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1 school corporation or charter school may not charge for computer  
 2 processing time and may not establish a minimum fee for searching for  
 3 records that are in an electronic format. A school corporation or charter  
 4 school shall make a good faith effort to complete a search for records  
 5 that are in an electronic format that is within a reasonable time in order  
 6 to minimize the amount of a search fee. The fee must be prorated to  
 7 reflect any search time of less than one (1) hour.

8 **(n) Except as provided in subsection (o), a public agency may**  
 9 **collect a supplemental fee for processing public records requests**  
 10 **submitted by non-Indiana residents or out-of-state entities. The**  
 11 **fee:**

12 **(1) must be reasonably related to the cost of fulfilling the**  
 13 **request; and**

14 **(2) may not exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page and**  
 15 **twenty-five dollars (\$25) per hour of staff time spent**  
 16 **processing the request.**

17 **(o) A public agency may waive the fee under subsection (n) if**  
 18 **the public agency finds that the public records request serves the**  
 19 **public interest.**

20 SECTION 6. IC 5-14-3-8.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 21 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 22 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8.1. (a) A public agency may give priority in fulfilling**  
 23 **public records requests to:**

24 **(1) Indiana residents; and**

25 **(2) requests submitted for civic, journalistic, academic, or**  
 26 **personal use.**

27 **(b) Requests identified as originating from out-of-state entities**  
 28 **or automated systems may be:**

29 **(1) delayed as necessary to prevent disruption of core agency**  
 30 **functions; and**

31 **(2) subject to a fee under section 8(n) of this chapter.**

32 SECTION 7. IC 5-14-3-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.58-2016,  
 33 SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 34 JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 9. (a) This section does not apply to a request for**  
 35 **information under section 4.4 of this chapter.**

36 **(b) A denial of disclosure by a public agency occurs when the**  
 37 **person making the request is physically present in the office of the**  
 38 **agency, makes the request by telephone, or requests enhanced access**  
 39 **to a document and:**

40 **(1) the person designated by the public agency as being**  
 41 **responsible for public records release decisions refuses to permit**  
 42 **inspection and copying of a public record when a request has**

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1           been made; or  
 2           (2) twenty-four (24) hours elapse after any employee of the  
 3           public agency refuses to permit inspection and copying of a  
 4           public record when a request has been made;  
 5           whichever occurs first.

6           (c) If a person requests ~~by mail or by facsimile~~ a copy or copies of  
 7           a public record **by mail, by facsimile, or through an electronic**  
 8           **portal under section 3.3 of this chapter**, a denial of disclosure does  
 9           not occur until seven (7) days have elapsed from the date the public  
 10          agency receives the request.

11          (d) If a request is made orally, either in person or by telephone, a  
 12          public agency may deny the request orally. However, if a request  
 13          initially is made in writing, by facsimile, or through enhanced access,  
 14          or if an oral request that has been denied is renewed in writing or by  
 15          facsimile, a public agency may deny the request if:

- 16           (1) the denial is in writing or by facsimile; and  
 17           (2) the denial includes:  
 18                (A) a statement of the specific exemption or exemptions  
 19                authorizing the withholding of all or part of the public  
 20                record; and  
 21                (B) the name and the title or position of the person  
 22                responsible for the denial.

23          (e) A person who has been denied the right to inspect or copy a  
 24          public record by a public agency may file an action in the circuit or  
 25          superior court of the county in which the denial occurred to compel the  
 26          public agency to permit the person to inspect and copy the public  
 27          record. Whenever an action is filed under this subsection, the public  
 28          agency must notify each person who supplied any part of the public  
 29          record at issue:

- 30           (1) that a request for release of the public record has been  
 31           denied; and  
 32           (2) whether the denial was in compliance with an informal  
 33           inquiry response or advisory opinion of the public access  
 34           counselor.

35          Such persons are entitled to intervene in any litigation that results from  
 36          the denial. The person who has been denied the right to inspect or copy  
 37          need not allege or prove any special damage different from that  
 38          suffered by the public at large.

39          (f) The court shall determine the matter de novo, with the burden  
 40          of proof on the public agency to sustain its denial. If the issue in de  
 41          novo review under this section is whether a public agency properly  
 42          denied access to a public record because the record is exempted under

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1 section 4(a) of this chapter, the public agency meets its burden of proof  
 2 under this subsection by establishing the content of the record with  
 3 adequate specificity and not by relying on a conclusory statement or  
 4 affidavit.

5 (g) This subsection does not apply to an action under section 5.2  
 6 of this chapter. If the issue in a de novo review under this section is  
 7 whether a public agency properly denied access to a public record  
 8 because the record is exempted under section 4(b) of this chapter:

9 (1) the public agency meets its burden of proof under this  
 10 subsection by:

11 (A) proving that:

12 (i) the record falls within any one (1) of the categories  
 13 of exempted records under section 4(b) of this chapter;  
 14 and

15 (ii) if the action is for denial of access to a recording  
 16 under section 5.1 of this chapter, the plaintiff is not a  
 17 "requestor" as that term is defined in section 5.1 of this  
 18 chapter; and

19 (B) establishing the content of the record with adequate  
 20 specificity and not by relying on a conclusory statement or  
 21 affidavit; and

22 (2) a person requesting access to a public record meets the  
 23 person's burden of proof under this subsection by proving that  
 24 the denial of access is arbitrary or capricious.

25 (h) The court may review the public record in camera to determine  
 26 whether any part of it may be withheld under this chapter. However, if  
 27 the complaint alleges that a public agency denied disclosure of a public  
 28 record by redacting information in the public record, the court shall  
 29 conduct an in camera inspection of the public record with the redacted  
 30 information included.

31 (i) Except as provided in subsection (k), in any action filed under  
 32 this section, a court shall award reasonable attorney's fees, court costs,  
 33 and other reasonable expenses of litigation to the prevailing party if:

34 (1) the plaintiff substantially prevails; or

35 (2) the defendant substantially prevails and the court finds the  
 36 action was frivolous or vexatious.

37 Except as provided in subsection (k), the plaintiff is not eligible for the  
 38 awarding of attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses  
 39 if the plaintiff filed the action without first seeking and receiving an  
 40 informal inquiry response or advisory opinion from the public access  
 41 counselor, unless the plaintiff can show the filing of the action was  
 42 necessary because the denial of access to a public record under this

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chapter would prevent the plaintiff from presenting that public record to a public agency preparing to act on a matter of relevance to the public record whose disclosure was denied.

(j) Except as provided in subsection (k), a court may assess a civil penalty under section 9.5 of this chapter only if the plaintiff obtained an advisory opinion from the public access counselor before filing an action under this section as set forth in section 9.5 of this chapter.

(k) This subsection applies only to an action to appeal the denial of access to a law enforcement recording under section 5.1 of this chapter. A requestor (as defined in section 5.1 of this chapter) may bring an action to appeal from the denial of access to a law enforcement recording without first seeking or receiving an informal inquiry response or advisory opinion from the public access counselor. If the requestor prevails in an action under this subsection:

(1) the requestor is eligible for an award of reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses; and

(2) a court may assess a civil penalty under section 9.5 of this chapter.

(l) A court shall expedite the hearing of an action filed under this section.

SECTION 8. IC 5-14-3-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 11. In addition to providing the public access counselor with notice of a request to which the public agency has declined to respond under section 3.3 of this chapter, a public agency shall report to the public access counselor, through a standardized mechanism prescribed by the public access counselor, any public records request received by the public agency that is suspected by the public agency of being:**

**(1) automated; or**

**(2) data scraping or phishing activity.**

SECTION 9. IC 5-14-3-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 12. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the general assembly from establishing reasonable and narrowly tailored procedural safeguards to preserve the integrity and availability of public agency resources.**

SECTION 10. IC 5-14-4-1.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 1.2. As used in this chapter, "data scraping" has the meaning set forth in IC 5-14-3-2.**

SECTION 11. IC 5-14-4-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

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1 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 2.5. As used in this chapter,**  
3 **"phishing" has the meaning set forth in IC 5-14-3-2.**

4 SECTION 12. IC 5-14-4-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
5 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. The counselor has  
6 the following powers and duties:

7 (1) To establish and administer a program to train public  
8 officials and educate the public on the rights of the public and  
9 the responsibilities of public agencies under the public access  
10 laws. The counselor may contract with a person or a public or  
11 private entity to fulfill the counselor's responsibility under this  
12 subdivision.

13 (2) To conduct research.

14 (3) To prepare interpretive and educational materials and  
15 programs in cooperation with the office of the attorney general.

16 (4) To distribute to newly elected or appointed public officials  
17 the public access laws and educational materials concerning the  
18 public access laws.

19 (5) To respond to informal inquiries made by the public and  
20 public agencies by telephone, in writing, in person, by facsimile,  
21 or by electronic mail concerning the public access laws.

22 (6) To issue advisory opinions to interpret the public access laws  
23 upon the request of a person or a public agency. However, the  
24 counselor may not issue an advisory opinion concerning a  
25 specific matter with respect to which a lawsuit has been filed  
26 under IC 5-14-1.5 or IC 5-14-3.

27 (7) To make recommendations to the general assembly  
28 concerning ways to improve public access.

29 **(8) To coordinate with public agencies to:**

30 **(A) track the volume and nature of public records**  
31 **requests received by public agencies; and**

32 **(B) identify patterns or sources of excessive, automated,**  
33 **phishing related, or data scraping based public records**  
34 **requests.**

35 **(9) To establish a standardized mechanism by which public**  
36 **agencies can report suspect public records requests under**  
37 **IC 5-14-3-11.**

38 SECTION 13. IC 5-14-4-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
39 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. The counselor shall  
40 submit a report in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 not later than  
41 June 30 of each year to the legislative services agency concerning the  
42 activities of the counselor for the previous year. The report must

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1 include the following information:

2 **(1) Summary information regarding:**

3 **(A) the volume and nature of public records requests**  
4 **received by public agencies; and**

5 **(B) public records requests reported to the counselor by**  
6 **public agencies under IC 5-14-3-11.**

7 ~~(1)~~ **(2)** The total number of inquiries and complaints received.

8 ~~(2)~~ **(3)** The number of inquiries and complaints received each  
9 from the public, the media, and government agencies.

10 ~~(3)~~ **(4)** The number of inquiries and complaints that were  
11 resolved.

12 ~~(4)~~ **(5)** The number of complaints received about each of the  
13 following:

14 (A) State agencies.

15 (B) County agencies.

16 (C) City agencies.

17 (D) Town agencies.

18 (E) Township agencies.

19 (F) School corporations.

20 (G) Other local agencies.

21 ~~(5)~~ **(6)** The number of complaints received concerning each of  
22 the following:

23 (A) Public records.

24 (B) Public meetings.

25 ~~(6)~~ **(7)** The total number of written advisory opinions issued and  
26 pending.

27 **(8) Recommendations to the general assembly regarding**  
28 **statutory or administrative remedies to public records**  
29 **requests described in section 10(8)(B) of this chapter.**

30 SECTION 14. IC 9-26-10-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.11-2019,  
31 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section, "person" has the  
33 meaning set forth in ~~IC 5-14-3-2(n)~~. **IC 5-14-3-2(o)**.

34 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f), all  
35 information contained in the emergency contact data base is  
36 confidential and exempt from:

37 (1) disclosure to any person; and

38 (2) public inspection under IC 5-14-3.

39 (c) The bureau may access information contained in the  
40 emergency contact data base for the purpose of deleting, logging, or  
41 revising emergency contact information contained in the emergency  
42 contact data base.

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- 1 (d) A law enforcement officer may access information contained
- 2 in the emergency contact data base for the purpose of complying with
- 3 IC 9-26-2-5.
- 4 (e) A coroner may access information contained in the emergency
- 5 contact data base in the performance of the coroner's duties.
- 6 (f) Information contained in the emergency contact data base is
- 7 subject to disclosure to an appropriate person upon the bureau's receipt
- 8 of a:
- 9 (1) grand jury subpoena; or
- 10 (2) subpoena related to a criminal investigation.

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