

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES PEARCE (Sponsor), COOPER (120), DEEKEN, ST. ONGE,
RICHARD, BRUNS AND SCHNEIDER (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time March 29, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2461L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 610.015 and 610.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the sunshine law.

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

Section A. Sections 610.015 and 610.021, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 610.015 and 610.021, to read as follows:

610.015. Except as provided in [section 610.021,] rules authorized pursuant to article
2 III of the Missouri Constitution and as otherwise provided by law, all votes shall be recorded,
3 and if a roll call is taken, as to attribute each "yea" and "nay" vote, or abstinence if not voting,
4 to the name of the individual member of the public governmental body. Any votes taken during
5 a closed meeting shall be taken by roll call. [All public meetings shall be open to the public and]
6 **Except as provided in section 610.021 or as otherwise provided by law**, public votes and
7 public records shall be open to the public for inspection and duplication. [All votes taken by roll
8 call in meetings of a public governmental body consisting of members who are all elected, except
9 for the Missouri general assembly and any committee established by a public governmental body,
10 shall be cast by members of the public governmental body who are physically present and in
11 attendance at the meeting. When it is necessary to take votes by roll call in a meeting of the
12 public governmental body, due to an emergency of the public body, with a quorum of the
13 members of the public body physically present and in attendance and less than a quorum of the
14 members of the public governmental body participating via telephone, facsimile, Internet, or any

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.

15 other voice or electronic means, the nature of the emergency of the public body justifying that
16 departure from the normal requirements shall be stated in the minutes. Where such emergency
17 exists, the votes taken shall be regarded as if all members were physically present and in
18 attendance at the meeting.]

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

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

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

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

- 33 (4) The state militia or national guard or any part thereof;
- 34 (5) Nonjudicial mental or physical health proceedings involving identifiable persons,
35 including medical, psychiatric, psychological, or alcoholism or drug dependency diagnosis or
36 treatment;
- 37 (6) Scholastic probation, expulsion, or graduation of identifiable individuals, including
38 records of individual test or examination scores; however, personally identifiable student records
39 maintained by public educational institutions shall be open for inspection by the parents,
40 guardian or other custodian of students under the age of eighteen years and by the parents,
41 guardian or other custodian and the student if the student is over the age of eighteen years;
- 42 (7) Testing and examination materials, before the test or examination is given or, if it
43 is to be given again, before so given again;
- 44 (8) Welfare cases of identifiable individuals;
- 45 (9) Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public
46 governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups;
- 47 (10) Software codes for electronic data processing and documentation thereof;
- 48 (11) Specifications for competitive bidding, until either the specifications are officially
49 approved by the public governmental body or the specifications are published for bid;
- 50 (12) Sealed bids and related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals
51 and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is
52 executed, or all proposals are rejected;
- 53 (13) Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records
54 pertaining to employees or applicants for employment, except that this exemption shall not apply
55 to the names, positions, salaries and lengths of service of officers and employees of public
56 agencies once they are employed as such, and the names of private sources donating or
57 contributing money to the salary of a chancellor or president at all public colleges and
58 universities in the state of Missouri and the amount of money contributed by the source;
- 59 (14) Records which are protected from disclosure by law;
- 60 (15) Meetings and public records relating to scientific and technological innovations in
61 which the owner has a proprietary interest;
- 62 (16) Records relating to municipal hotlines established for the reporting of abuse and
63 wrongdoing;
- 64 (17) Confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body
65 and its auditor, including all auditor work product; however, all final audit reports issued by the
66 auditor are to be considered open records pursuant to this chapter;
- 67 (18) Operational guidelines and policies developed, adopted, or maintained by any public
68 agency responsible for law enforcement, public safety, first response, or public health for use in

69 responding to or preventing any critical incident which is or appears to be terrorist in nature and
70 which has the potential to endanger individual or public safety or health. Nothing in this
71 exception shall be deemed to close information regarding expenditures, purchases, or contracts
72 made by an agency in implementing these guidelines or policies. When seeking to close
73 information pursuant to this exception, the agency shall affirmatively state in writing that
74 disclosure would impair its ability to protect the safety or health of persons, and shall in the same
75 writing state that the public interest in nondisclosure outweighs the public interest in disclosure
76 of the records[. This exception shall sunset on December 31, 2008];

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

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

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

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

93 [(d) This exception shall sunset on December 31, 2008;]

94 (20) 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 and

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

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