

HB 1539 -- Disclosure of News Sources

Sponsor: Jones (89)

This bill protects individuals and media entities from being required to disclose in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding the source of any published or unpublished information obtained by the individual or entity. The party seeking the source of the information may petition the circuit court of the county where the proceeding is located for a court order to require the individual to disclose his or her source. The court, in making its decision, must consider the nature of the proceeding, the merits of the claim, the available alternative means for establishing the source of the information, and the public interest in protecting the confidential source. The court is authorized to compel disclosure of the information if it does not involve any information required to be kept secret under federal or state law and the disclosure is essential to the protection of the public interest involved in the proceeding.