

HB 2176 -- Disclosure of News Sources

Sponsor: Harris (23)

This bill protects certain individuals and media entities from being required to disclose in any state or federal administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding the source of any published or unpublished information obtained by the individual or entity.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 or defense, the adequacy of other available alternatives, the possibility of establishing by other means that which it is alleged the source or information will tend to prove, the public interest in protecting the confidential source as balanced against the public interest in requiring disclosure, and the relevancy of the source or information. 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.