IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1274, As Amended

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS; AMENDING SECTION 74-101, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "CUSTODIAN"; AMENDING SECTION 74-102, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT A PUBLIC AGENCY, ELECTED OFFICIAL OR INDEPENDENT PUBLIC BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC SHALL DESIGNATE A CUSTODIAN OR CUSTODIANS FOR ALL PUBLIC RECORDS; AMENDING SECTION 74-106, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT BONUSES, SEVERANCE PACKAGES, OTHER COMPENSATION OR VOUCHERED AND UNVOUCHERED EXPENSES FOR WHICH REIMBURSEMENT WAS PAID TO A PUBLIC OFFICIAL ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE AND TO PROVIDE THAT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBERS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE; AND AMENDING SECTION 74-119, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT PUBLIC AGENCIES SHALL DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE PERSON AS CUSTODIAN TO RECEIVE PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS AND SHALL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE CUSTODIAN OR ALTERNATE CUSTODIANS FOR CONTINGENCIES.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 74-101, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

74-101. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Applicant" means any person formally seeking a paid or volunteer position with a public agency. "Applicant" does not include any person seeking appointment to a position normally filled by election.
- (2) "Copy" means transcribing by handwriting, photocopying, duplicating machine and reproducing by any other means so long as the public record is not altered or damaged.
- (3) "Custodian" means the person <u>or persons</u> having personal custody and control of the public records in question. If no such designation is made by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic, then custodian means any public official having custody of, control of, or authorized access to public records and includes all delegates of such officials, employees or representatives.
- (4) "Independent public body corporate and politic" means the Idaho housing and finance association as created in chapter 62, title 67, Idaho Code.
- (5) "Inspect" means the right to listen, view and make notes of public records as long as the public record is not altered or damaged.
- (6) "Investigatory record" means information with respect to an identifiable person, group of persons or entities compiled by a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic pursuant to its statutory authority in the course of investigating a specific act, omission, failure to act, or other conduct over which the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic has regulatory authority or law enforcement authority.

(7) "Law enforcement agency" means any state or local agency given law enforcement powers or which has authority to investigate, enforce, prosecute or punish violations of state or federal criminal statutes, ordinances or regulations.

- (8) "Local agency" means a county, city, school district, municipal corporation, district, public health district, political subdivision, or any agency thereof, or any committee of a local agency, or any combination thereof.
- (9) "Person" means any natural person, corporation, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, state or local agency or any other recognized legal entity.
- (10) "Prisoner" means a person who has been convicted of a crime and is either incarcerated or on parole for that crime or who is being held in custody for trial or sentencing.
- (11) "Public agency" means any state or local agency as defined in this section.
- (12) "Public official" means any state, county, local district, independent public body corporate and politic or governmental official or employee, whether elected, appointed or hired.
- (13) "Public record" includes, but is not limited to, any writing containing information relating to the conduct or administration of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state agency, independent public body corporate and politic or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics.
- (14) "Requester" means the person requesting examination and/or copying of public records pursuant to section 74-102, Idaho Code.
- (15) "State agency" means every state officer, department, division, bureau, commission and board or any committee of a state agency including those in the legislative or judicial branch, except the state militia and the Idaho state historical society library and archives.
- (16) "Writing" includes, but is not limited to, handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing and every means of recording, including letters, words, pictures, sounds or symbols or combination thereof, and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and prints, magnetic or punched cards, discs, drums or other documents.
- SECTION 2. That Section 74-102, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 74-102. PUBLIC RECORDS -- RIGHT TO EXAMINE. (1) Every person has a right to examine and take a copy of any public record of this state and there is a presumption that all public records in Idaho are open at all reasonable times for inspection except as otherwise expressly provided by statute.
- (2) The right to copy public records shall include the right to make photographs or photographic or other copies while the records are in the possession of the custodian of the records using equipment provided by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic or using equipment designated by the custodian.
- (3) Additionally, the custodian of any public record shall give the person, on demand, a certified copy of it if the record is of a nature permit-

ting such copying or shall furnish reasonable opportunity to inspect or copy such record.

- (4) A public agency or independent public body corporate and politic may require that a request for public records be submitted to it in a writing that provides the requester's name, mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number. A request for public records and delivery of the public records may be made by electronic mail.
- (5) The custodian shall make no inquiry of any person who requests a public record, except:
 - (a) To verify the identity of the requester in accordance with section 74-113, Idaho Code; or
 - (b) To ensure that the requested record or information will not be used for purposes of a mailing or telephone list prohibited by section 74-120, Idaho Code, or as otherwise provided by law; or
 - (c) As required for purposes of protecting personal information from disclosure under chapter 2, title 49, Idaho Code, and federal law.
- (6) The custodian shall not review, examine or scrutinize any copy, photograph or memoranda in the possession of any such person and shall extend to the person all reasonable comfort and facility for the full exercise of the right granted under this act.
- (7) Nothing herein contained shall prevent the custodian from maintaining such vigilance as is required to prevent alteration of any public record while it is being examined.
- (8) Examination of public records under the authority of this section must be conducted during regular office or working hours unless the custodian shall authorize examination of records in other than regular office or working hours. In this event, the persons designated to represent the custodian during such examination shall be entitled to reasonable compensation to be paid to them by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic having custody of such records, out of funds provided in advance by the person examining such records, at other than regular office or working hours.
- (9) The public agency or independent public body corporate and politic may provide the requester information to help the requester narrow the scope of the request or to help the requester make the request more specific when the response to the request is likely to be voluminous or require payment as provided in subsection (10) of this section.
 - (10) (a) Except for fees that are authorized or prescribed under other provisions of Idaho law, no fee shall be charged for the first two (2) hours of labor in responding to a request for public records, or for copying the first one hundred (100) pages of paper records that are requested.
 - (b) A public agency or independent public body corporate and politic or public official may establish fees to recover the actual labor and copying costs associated with locating and copying documents if:
 - (i) The request is for more than one hundred (100) pages of paper records; or
 - (ii) The request includes records from which nonpublic information must be deleted; or

- (iii) The actual labor associated with responding to requests for public records in compliance with the provisions of this chapter exceeds two (2) person hours.
- (c) A public agency or independent public body corporate and politic or public official may establish a copying fee schedule. The fee may not exceed the actual cost to the agency of copying the record if another fee is not otherwise provided by law.
- (d) For providing a duplicate of a computer tape, computer disc, microfilm or similar or analogous record system containing public record information, a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic or public official may charge a fee, uniform to all persons that does not exceed the sum of the following:
 - (i) The agency's direct cost of copying the information in that form;
 - (ii) The standard cost, if any, for selling the same information in the form of a publication;
 - (iii) The agency's cost of conversion, or the cost of conversion charged by a third party, if the existing electronic record is converted to another electronic form.
- (e) Fees shall not exceed reasonable labor costs necessarily incurred in responding to a public records request. Fees, if charged, shall reflect the personnel and quantity of time that are reasonably necessary to process a request. Fees for labor costs shall be charged at the per hour pay rate of the lowest paid administrative staff employee or public official of the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic who is necessary and qualified to process the request. If a request requires redactions to be made by an attorney who is employed by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic, the rate charged shall be no more than the per hour rate of the lowest paid attorney within the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic who is necessary and qualified to process the public records request. If a request is submitted to a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic that does not have an attorney on staff, and requires redactions by an attorney, the rate shall be no more than the usual and customary rate of the attorney who is retained by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic for that purpose.
- (f) The public agency or independent public body corporate and politic shall not charge any cost or fee for copies or labor when the requester demonstrates that the requester's examination and/or copying of public records:
 - (i) Is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operations or activities of the government;
 - (ii) Is not primarily in the individual interest of the requester including, but not limited to, the requester's interest in litigation in which the requester is or may become a party; and
 - (iii) Will not occur if fees are charged because the requester has insufficient financial resources to pay such fees.
- (g) Statements of fees by a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic shall be itemized to show the per page costs for

 copies, and hourly rates of employees and attorneys involved in responding to the request, and the actual time spent on the public records request. No lump sum costs shall be assigned to any public records request.

- (11) A requester may not file multiple requests for public records solely to avoid payment of fees. When a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic reasonably believes that one (1) or more requesters is segregating a request into a series of requests to avoid payment of fees authorized pursuant to this section, the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic may aggregate such requests and charge the appropriate fees. The public agency or independent public body corporate and politic may consider the time period in which the requests have been made in its determination to aggregate the related requests. A public agency or independent public body corporate and politic shall not aggregate multiple requests on unrelated subjects from one (1) requester.
- (12) The custodian may require advance payment of fees authorized by this section. Any money received by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic shall be credited to the account for which the expense being reimbursed was or will be charged, and such funds may be expended by the agency as part of its appropriation from that fund. Any portion of an advance payment in excess of the actual costs of labor and copying incurred by the agency in responding to the request shall be returned to the requester.
- (13) A public agency or independent public body corporate and politic shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernmental body to perform any of its duties or functions.
- (14) Nothing contained herein shall prevent a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic from disclosing statistical information that is descriptive of an identifiable person or persons, unless prohibited by law.
- (15) Nothing contained herein shall prevent a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic from providing a copy of a public record in electronic form if the record is available in electronic form and if the person specifically requests an electronic copy.
- (16) A public agency, elected official or independent public body corporate and politic shall designate a custodian or custodians for all public records, which includes any public official having custody of, control of, or authorized access to public records and also includes all delegates of such officials, employees or representatives.
- SECTION 3. That Section 74-106, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 74-106. RECORDS EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE -- PERSONNEL RECORDS, PERSONAL INFORMATION, HEALTH RECORDS, PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE. The following records are exempt from disclosure:
- (1) Except as provided in this subsection, all personnel records of a current or former public official other than the public official's public service or employment history, classification, pay grade and step, longevity, gross salary and salary history, <u>including bonuses</u>, <u>severance packages</u>, other compensation or vouchered and unvouchered expenses for

which reimbursement was paid, status, workplace and employing agency. All other personnel information relating to a public employee or applicant including, but not limited to, information regarding sex, race, marital status, birth date, home address and telephone number, social security number, driver's license number, applications, testing and scoring materials, grievances, correspondence and performance evaluations, shall not be disclosed to the public without the employee's or applicant's written consent. Names of applicants to classified or merit system positions shall not be disclosed to the public without the applicant's written consent. Disclosure of names as part of a background check is permitted. Names of the five (5) final applicants to all other positions shall be available to the public. If such group is less than five (5) finalists, then the entire list of applicants shall be available to the public. A public official or authorized representative may inspect and copy his personnel records, except for material used to screen and test for employment.

- (2) Retired employees' and retired public officials' home addresses, home telephone numbers and other financial and nonfinancial membership records; active and inactive member financial and membership records and mortgage portfolio loan documents maintained by the public employee retirement system. Financial statements prepared by retirement system staff, funding agents and custodians concerning the investment of assets of the public employee retirement system of Idaho are not considered confidential under this chapter.
- (3) Information and records submitted to the Idaho state lottery for the performance of background investigations of employees, lottery retailers and major procurement contractors; audit records of lottery retailers, vendors and major procurement contractors submitted to or performed by the Idaho state lottery; validation and security tests of the state lottery for lottery games; business records and information submitted pursuant to sections 67-7412(8) and (9) and 67-7421(8) and (9), Idaho Code, and such documents and information obtained and held for the purposes of lottery security and investigative action as determined by lottery rules unless the public interest in disclosure substantially outweighs the private need for protection from public disclosure.
 - (4) Records of a personal nature as follows:
 - (a) Records of personal debt filed with a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic pursuant to law;
 - (b) Personal bank records compiled by a public depositor for the purpose of public funds transactions conducted pursuant to law;
 - (c) Records of ownership of financial obligations and instruments of a public agency or independent public body corporate and politic, such as bonds, compiled by the public agency or independent public body corporate and politic pursuant to law;
 - (d) Records, with regard to the ownership of, or security interests in, registered public obligations;
 - (e) Vital statistics records; and

- (f) Military records as described in and pursuant to section 65-301, Idaho Code.
- (5) Information in an income or other tax return measured by items of income or sales, which is gathered by a public agency for the purpose of ad-

ministering the tax, except such information to the extent disclosed in a written decision of the tax commission pursuant to a taxpayer protest of a deficiency determination by the tax commission, under the provisions of section 63-3045B, Idaho Code.

- (6) Records of a personal nature related directly or indirectly to the application for and provision of statutory services rendered to persons applying for public care for people who are elderly, indigent or have mental or physical disabilities, or participation in an environmental or a public health study, provided the provisions of this subsection making records exempt from disclosure shall not apply to the extent that such records or information contained in those records are necessary for a background check on an individual that is required by federal law regulating the sale of firearms, guns or ammunition.
- (7) Employment security information, except that a person may agree, through written, informed consent, to waive the exemption so that a third party may obtain information pertaining to the person, unless access to the information by the person is restricted by subsection (3)(a), (3)(b) or (3)(d) of section 74-113, Idaho Code. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 74-113, Idaho Code, a person may not review identifying information concerning an informant who reported to the department of labor a suspected violation by the person of the employment security law, chapter 13, title 72, Idaho Code, under an assurance of confidentiality. As used in this section and in chapter 13, title 72, Idaho Code, "employment security information" means any information descriptive of an identifiable person or persons that is received by, recorded by, prepared by, furnished to or collected by the department of labor or the industrial commission in the administration of the employment security law.
- (8) Any personal records, other than names, business addresses and business phone numbers, such as parentage, race, religion, sex, height, weight, tax identification and social security numbers, financial worth or medical condition submitted to any public agency or independent public body corporate and politic pursuant to a statutory requirement for licensing, certification, permit or bonding.
- (9) Unless otherwise provided by agency rule, information obtained as part of an inquiry into a person's fitness to be granted or retain a license, certificate, permit, privilege, commission or position, private association peer review committee records authorized in title 54, Idaho Code. Any agency which has records exempt from disclosure under the provisions of this subsection shall annually make available a statistical summary of the number and types of matters considered and their disposition.
- (10) The records, findings, determinations and decisions of any prelitigation screening panel formed under chapters 10 and 23, title 6, Idaho Code.
- (11) Complaints received by the board of medicine and investigations and informal proceedings, including informal proceedings of any committee of the board of medicine, pursuant to chapter 18, title 54, Idaho Code, and rules adopted thereunder.
- (12) Records of the department of health and welfare or a public health district that identify a person infected with a reportable disease.
- (13) Records of hospital care, medical records, including prescriptions, drug orders, records or any other prescription information that

specifically identifies an individual patient, prescription records maintained by the board of pharmacy under sections 37-2726 and 37-2730A, Idaho Code, records of psychiatric care or treatment and professional counseling records relating to an individual's condition, diagnosis, care or treatment, provided the provisions of this subsection making records exempt from disclosure shall not apply to the extent that such records or information contained in those records are necessary for a background check on an individual that is required by federal law regulating the sale of firearms, guns or ammunition.

- (14) Information collected pursuant to the directory of new hires act, chapter 16, title 72, Idaho Code.
- (15) Personal information contained in motor vehicle and driver records that is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of chapter 2, title 49, Idaho Code.
- (16) Records of the financial status of prisoners pursuant to subsection (2) of section 20-607, Idaho Code.
- (17) Records of the Idaho state police or department of correction received or maintained pursuant to section 19-5514, Idaho Code, relating to DNA databases and databanks.
- (18) Records of the department of health and welfare relating to a survey, resurvey or complaint investigation of a licensed nursing facility shall be exempt from disclosure. Such records shall, however, be subject to disclosure as public records as soon as the facility in question has received the report, and no later than the fourteenth day following the date that department of health and welfare representatives officially exit the facility pursuant to federal regulations. Provided however, that for purposes of confidentiality, no record shall be released under this section which specifically identifies any nursing facility resident.
- (19) Records and information contained in the registry of immunizations against childhood diseases maintained in the department of health and welfare, including information disseminated to others from the registry by the department of health and welfare.
- (20) Records of the Idaho housing and finance association (IHFA) relating to the following:
 - (a) Records containing personal financial, family, health or similar personal information submitted to or otherwise obtained by the IHFA;
 - (b) Records submitted to or otherwise obtained by the IHFA with regard to obtaining and servicing mortgage loans and all records relating to the review, approval or rejection by the IHFA of said loans;
 - (c) Mortgage portfolio loan documents;
 - (d) Records of a current or former employee other than the employee's duration of employment with the association, position held and location of employment. This exemption from disclosure does not include the contracts of employment or any remuneration, including reimbursement of expenses, of the executive director, executive officers or commissioners of the association. All other personnel information relating to an association employee or applicant including, but not limited to, information regarding sex, race, marital status, birth date, home address and telephone number, applications, testing and scoring materials, grievances, correspondence, retirement plan information and per-

formance evaluations, shall not be disclosed to the public without the employee's or applicant's written consent. An employee or authorized representative may inspect and copy that employee's personnel records, except for material used to screen and test for employment or material not subject to disclosure elsewhere in the Idaho public records act.

- (21) Records of the department of health and welfare related to child support services in cases in which there is reasonable evidence of domestic violence, as defined in chapter 63, title 39, Idaho Code, that can be used to locate any individuals in the child support case except in response to a court order.
- (22) Records of the Idaho state bar lawyer assistance program pursuant to chapter 49, title 54, Idaho Code, unless a participant in the program authorizes the release pursuant to subsection (4) of section 54-4901, Idaho Code.
- (23) Records and information contained in the trauma registry created by chapter 20, title 57, Idaho Code, together with any reports, analyses and compilations created from such information and records.
- (24) Records contained in the court files, or other records prepared as part of proceedings for judicial authorization of sterilization procedures pursuant to chapter 39, title 39, Idaho Code.
- (25) The physical voter registration application on file in the county clerk's office; however, a redacted copy of said application shall be made available consistent with the requirements of this section. Information from the voter registration application maintained in the statewide voter registration database, including age, will be made available except for the voter's driver's license number, date of birth and, upon a showing that the voter comes within the provisions of subsection (30) of this section or upon showing of good cause by the voter to the county clerk in consultation with the county prosecuting attorney, the physical residence address of the voter. For the purposes of this subsection good cause shall include the protection of life and property and protection of victims of domestic violence and similar crimes.
- (26) File numbers, passwords and information in the files of the health care directive registry maintained by the secretary of state under section 39-4515, Idaho Code, are confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person other than to the person who executed the health care directive or the revocation thereof and that person's legal representatives, to the person who registered the health care directive or revocation thereof, and to physicians, hospitals, medical personnel, nursing homes, and other persons who have been granted file number and password access to the documents within that specific file.
- (27) Records in an address confidentiality program participant's file as provided for in chapter 57, title 19, Idaho Code, other than the address designated by the secretary of state, except under the following circumstances:
 - (a) If requested by a law enforcement agency, to the law enforcement agency; or
 - (b) If directed by a court order, to a person identified in the order.
- (28) Except as otherwise provided by law relating to the release of information to a governmental entity or law enforcement agency, any personal

information including, but not limited to, names, personal and business addresses and phone numbers, sex, height, weight, date of birth, social security and driver's license numbers, or any other identifying numbers and/or information related to any Idaho fish and game licenses, permits and tags unless written consent is obtained from the affected person.

- (29) Documents and records related to alternatives to discipline that are maintained by the Idaho board of veterinary medicine under the provisions of section 54-2118(1)(b), Idaho Code, provided the requirements set forth therein are met.
- (30) The Idaho residential street address and telephone number of an eligible law enforcement officer and such officer's residing household member(s) as provided for in chapter 58, title 19, Idaho Code, except under the following circumstances:
 - (a) If directed by a court order, to a person identified in the court order;
 - (b) If requested by a law enforcement agency, to the law enforcement agency;
 - (c) If requested by a financial institution or title company for business purposes, to the requesting financial institution or title company; or
 - (d) If the law enforcement officer provides written permission for disclosure of such information.
- (31) All information exchanged between the Idaho transportation department and insurance companies, any database created, all information contained in the verification system and all reports, responses or other information generated for the purposes of the verification system, pursuant to section 49-1234, Idaho Code.
- (32) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the release of information to the state controller as the state social security administrator as provided in section 59-1101A, Idaho Code.
- (33) Personal information including, but not limited to, property values, personal and business addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, social security and driver's license numbers or any other identifying numbers or information maintained by the administrator of the unclaimed property law set forth in chapter 5, title 14, Idaho Code. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the release of names, last known city of residence, property value ranges and general property information by the administrator for the purpose of reuniting unclaimed property with its owner.
- (34) Any personal information collected by the secretary of state, pursuant to section 67-906(1) (b), Idaho Code, for the purpose of allowing individuals to access the statewide electronic filing system authorized in section 67-906, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 4. That Section 74-119, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 74-119. AGENCY GUIDELINES. By January 1, 20169, every state agency or independent public body corporate and politic shall adopt guidelines that identify the general subject matter of all public records kept or maintained by the state agency or independent public body corporate and politic, the custodian or custodians, and the physical location of such documents.

- Public agencies shall designate at least one (1) person as custodian to receive public records requests and shall provide an alternate custodian or
- alternate custodians for contingencies.