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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 659
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Galonski

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SUMMARY

- Exempts the residential and familial information of retired public service workers from disclosure as a public record.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Retired public service workers

The bill exempts the residential and familial information of retired designated public service workers from disclosure as a public record.¹ Under continuing law, residential and familial information of current designated public service workers is not a public record and therefore exempt from disclosure. The bill expands this exemption to include *retired* public service workers.

Under continuing law, “designated public service worker” includes all of the following:

peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, county or multicounty corrections officer, community-based correctional facility employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, medical director or member of a cooperating physician advisory board of an emergency medical service organization, state board of pharmacy employee, investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation, judge, magistrate, or federal law enforcement officer.

¹ R.C. 149.43(A)(7).

Ohio Public Records Law generally requires every public office, when requested, to promptly prepare public records and make them available for inspection at all reasonable times during regular business hours. A public office must make public records available for copying at cost. Public offices must maintain public records in a manner that allows them to be made available for inspection and copying. Not every document or piece of information maintained by a public office is a “record” subject to the Public Records Law. And, if a public record contains information that is exempt, the public office must redact the exempt information and make available all of the remaining information.² Of note, under continuing law, journalists may access the residential and family information of designated public service workers. If a journalist submits a signed written request in a specified form that includes a statement that disclosure of the information is “in the public interest,” the public office must disclose certain information. This journalist access requirement does not authorize access to Social Security numbers or private financial information.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-19-20

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² R.C. 149.43(B)(1).

³ R.C. 149.43(B)(9).