

**As Passed by the House**

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**Sub. H. B. No. 425**

**Representatives Antani, Craig**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Seitz, Sheehy, Lang, Anielski, Arndt, Barnes, Brown, Celebrezze, Cupp, Dever, Duffey, Fedor, Gavarone, Ginter, Gonzales, Green, Hagan, Hambley, Henne, Holmes, Hoops, Howse, Hughes, Ingram, Kent, Kick, Landis, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Miller, O'Brien, Patterson, Patton, Perales, Ramos, Reece, Reineke, Rezabek, Riedel, Roegner, Rogers, Ryan, Schaffer, Scherer, Schuring, Smith, K., Stein, Sykes, West, Wiggam, Wilkin, Young**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 149.43 and 149.433 of the Revised Code to provide that specified portions of peace officers' body-worn camera or dashboard camera recordings and the infrastructure record of a public school are not public records for purposes of the Public Records Law.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 149.43 and 149.433 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 149.43.** (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Public record" means records kept by any public office, including, but not limited to, state, county, city, village, township, and school district units, and records pertaining to the delivery of educational services by an alternative school in this state kept by the nonprofit or for-

profit entity operating the alternative school pursuant to	15
section 3313.533 of the Revised Code. "Public record" does not	16
mean any of the following:	17
(a) Medical records;	18
(b) Records pertaining to probation and parole proceedings	19
or to proceedings related to the imposition of community control	20
sanctions and post-release control sanctions;	21
(c) Records pertaining to actions under section 2151.85	22
and division (C) of section 2919.121 of the Revised Code and to	23
appeals of actions arising under those sections;	24
(d) Records pertaining to adoption proceedings, including	25
the contents of an adoption file maintained by the department of	26
health under sections 3705.12 to 3705.124 of the Revised Code;	27
(e) Information in a record contained in the putative	28
father registry established by section 3107.062 of the Revised	29
Code, regardless of whether the information is held by the	30
department of job and family services or, pursuant to section	31
3111.69 of the Revised Code, the office of child support in the	32
department or a child support enforcement agency;	33
(f) Records specified in division (A) of section 3107.52	34
of the Revised Code;	35
(g) Trial preparation records;	36
(h) Confidential law enforcement investigatory records;	37
(i) Records containing information that is confidential	38
under section 2710.03 or 4112.05 of the Revised Code;	39
(j) DNA records stored in the DNA database pursuant to	40
section 109.573 of the Revised Code;	41

(k) Inmate records released by the department of 42  
rehabilitation and correction to the department of youth 43  
services or a court of record pursuant to division (E) of 44  
section 5120.21 of the Revised Code; 45

(l) Records maintained by the department of youth services 46  
pertaining to children in its custody released by the department 47  
of youth services to the department of rehabilitation and 48  
correction pursuant to section 5139.05 of the Revised Code; 49

(m) Intellectual property records; 50

(n) Donor profile records; 51

(o) Records maintained by the department of job and family 52  
services pursuant to section 3121.894 of the Revised Code; 53

(p) Peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, 54  
bailiff, prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, 55  
correctional employee, community-based correctional facility 56  
employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, 57  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 58  
investigation, or federal law enforcement officer residential 59  
and familial information; 60

(q) In the case of a county hospital operated pursuant to 61  
Chapter 339. of the Revised Code or a municipal hospital 62  
operated pursuant to Chapter 749. of the Revised Code, 63  
information that constitutes a trade secret, as defined in 64  
section 1333.61 of the Revised Code; 65

(r) Information pertaining to the recreational activities 66  
of a person under the age of eighteen; 67

(s) In the case of a child fatality review board acting 68  
under sections 307.621 to 307.629 of the Revised Code or a 69

review conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the 70  
director of health under section 3701.70 of the Revised Code, 71  
records provided to the board or director, statements made by 72  
board members during meetings of the board or by persons 73  
participating in the director's review, and all work products of 74  
the board or director, and in the case of a child fatality 75  
review board, child fatality review data submitted by the board 76  
to the department of health or a national child death review 77  
database, other than the report prepared pursuant to division 78  
(A) of section 307.626 of the Revised Code; 79

(t) Records provided to and statements made by the 80  
executive director of a public children services agency or a 81  
prosecuting attorney acting pursuant to section 5153.171 of the 82  
Revised Code other than the information released under that 83  
section; 84

(u) Test materials, examinations, or evaluation tools used 85  
in an examination for licensure as a nursing home administrator 86  
that the board of executives of long-term services and supports 87  
administers under section 4751.04 of the Revised Code or 88  
contracts under that section with a private or government entity 89  
to administer; 90

(v) Records the release of which is prohibited by state or 91  
federal law; 92

(w) Proprietary information of or relating to any person 93  
that is submitted to or compiled by the Ohio venture capital 94  
authority created under section 150.01 of the Revised Code; 95

(x) Financial statements and data any person submits for 96  
any purpose to the Ohio housing finance agency or the 97  
controlling board in connection with applying for, receiving, or 98

accounting for financial assistance from the agency, and	99
information that identifies any individual who benefits directly	100
or indirectly from financial assistance from the agency;	101
(y) Records listed in section 5101.29 of the Revised Code;	102
(z) Discharges recorded with a county recorder under	103
section 317.24 of the Revised Code, as specified in division (B)	104
(2) of that section;	105
(aa) Usage information including names and addresses of	106
specific residential and commercial customers of a municipally	107
owned or operated public utility;	108
(bb) Records described in division (C) of section 187.04	109
of the Revised Code that are not designated to be made available	110
to the public as provided in that division;	111
(cc) Information and records that are made confidential,	112
privileged, and not subject to disclosure under divisions (B)	113
and (C) of section 2949.221 of the Revised Code;	114
(dd) Personal information, as defined in section 149.45 of	115
the Revised Code;	116
(ee) The confidential name, address, and other personally	117
identifiable information of a program participant in the address	118
confidentiality program established under sections 111.41 to	119
111.47 of the Revised Code, including the contents of any	120
application for absent voter's ballots, absent voter's ballot	121
identification envelope statement of voter, or provisional	122
ballot affirmation completed by a program participant who has a	123
confidential voter registration record, and records or portions	124
of records pertaining to that program that identify the number	125
of program participants that reside within a precinct, ward,	126
township, municipal corporation, county, or any other geographic	127

area smaller than the state. As used in this division, 128  
"confidential address" and "program participant" have the 129  
meaning defined in section 111.41 of the Revised Code. 130

(ff) Orders for active military service of an individual 131  
serving or with previous service in the armed forces of the 132  
United States, including a reserve component, or the Ohio 133  
organized militia, except that, such order becomes a public 134  
record on the day that is fifteen years after the published date 135  
or effective date of the call to order. 136

(gg) Restricted portions of a body-worn camera or 137  
dashboard camera recording. 138

(2) "Confidential law enforcement investigatory record" 139  
means any record that pertains to a law enforcement matter of a 140  
criminal, quasi-criminal, civil, or administrative nature, but 141  
only to the extent that the release of the record would create a 142  
high probability of disclosure of any of the following: 143

(a) The identity of a suspect who has not been charged 144  
with the offense to which the record pertains, or of an 145  
information source or witness to whom confidentiality has been 146  
reasonably promised; 147

(b) Information provided by an information source or 148  
witness to whom confidentiality has been reasonably promised, 149  
which information would reasonably tend to disclose the source's 150  
or witness's identity; 151

(c) Specific confidential investigatory techniques or 152  
procedures or specific investigatory work product; 153

(d) Information that would endanger the life or physical 154  
safety of law enforcement personnel, a crime victim, a witness, 155  
or a confidential information source. 156

(3) "Medical record" means any document or combination of documents, except births, deaths, and the fact of admission to or discharge from a hospital, that pertains to the medical history, diagnosis, prognosis, or medical condition of a patient and that is generated and maintained in the process of medical treatment.

(4) "Trial preparation record" means any record that contains information that is specifically compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or in defense of, a civil or criminal action or proceeding, including the independent thought processes and personal trial preparation of an attorney.

(5) "Intellectual property record" means a record, other than a financial or administrative record, that is produced or collected by or for faculty or staff of a state institution of higher learning in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on an educational, commercial, scientific, artistic, technical, or scholarly issue, regardless of whether the study or research was sponsored by the institution alone or in conjunction with a governmental body or private concern, and that has not been publicly released, published, or patented.

(6) "Donor profile record" means all records about donors or potential donors to a public institution of higher education except the names and reported addresses of the actual donors and the date, amount, and conditions of the actual donation.

(7) "Peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, community-based correctional facility employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation, or federal law enforcement officer residential

and familial information" means any information that discloses 187  
any of the following about a peace officer, parole officer, 188  
probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting attorney, assistant 189  
prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, community-based 190  
correctional facility employee, youth services employee, 191  
firefighter, EMT, investigator of the bureau of criminal 192  
identification and investigation, or federal law enforcement 193  
officer: 194

(a) The address of the actual personal residence of a 195  
peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, 196  
assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, 197  
community-based correctional facility employee, youth services 198  
employee, firefighter, EMT, an investigator of the bureau of 199  
criminal identification and investigation, or federal law 200  
enforcement officer, except for the state or political 201  
subdivision in which the peace officer, parole officer, 202  
probation officer, bailiff, assistant prosecuting attorney, 203  
correctional employee, community-based correctional facility 204  
employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, 205  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 206  
investigation, or federal law enforcement officer resides; 207

(b) Information compiled from referral to or participation 208  
in an employee assistance program; 209

(c) The social security number, the residential telephone 210  
number, any bank account, debit card, charge card, or credit 211  
card number, or the emergency telephone number of, or any 212  
medical information pertaining to, a peace officer, parole 213  
officer, probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting attorney, 214  
assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, 215  
community-based correctional facility employee, youth services 216



employee, firefighter, EMT, investigator of the bureau of 217  
criminal identification and investigation, or federal law 218  
enforcement officer; 219

(d) The name of any beneficiary of employment benefits, 220  
including, but not limited to, life insurance benefits, provided 221  
to a peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, 222  
prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, 223  
correctional employee, community-based correctional facility 224  
employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, 225  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 226  
investigation, or federal law enforcement officer by the peace 227  
officer's, parole officer's, probation officer's, bailiff's, 228  
prosecuting attorney's, assistant prosecuting attorney's, 229  
correctional employee's, community-based correctional facility 230  
employee's, youth services employee's, firefighter's, EMT's, 231  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 232  
investigation's, or federal law enforcement officer's employer; 233

(e) The identity and amount of any charitable or 234  
employment benefit deduction made by the peace officer's, parole 235  
officer's, probation officer's, bailiff's, prosecuting 236  
attorney's, assistant prosecuting attorney's, correctional 237  
employee's, community-based correctional facility employee's, 238  
youth services employee's, firefighter's, EMT's, investigator of 239  
the bureau of criminal identification and investigation's, or 240  
federal law enforcement officer's employer from the peace 241  
officer's, parole officer's, probation officer's, bailiff's, 242  
prosecuting attorney's, assistant prosecuting attorney's, 243  
correctional employee's, community-based correctional facility 244  
employee's, youth services employee's, firefighter's, EMT's, 245  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 246  
investigation's, or federal law enforcement officer's 247

compensation unless the amount of the deduction is required by 248  
state or federal law; 249

(f) The name, the residential address, the name of the 250  
employer, the address of the employer, the social security 251  
number, the residential telephone number, any bank account, 252  
debit card, charge card, or credit card number, or the emergency 253  
telephone number of the spouse, a former spouse, or any child of 254  
a peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, 255  
prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, 256  
correctional employee, community-based correctional facility 257  
employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, 258  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 259  
investigation, or federal law enforcement officer; 260

(g) A photograph of a peace officer who holds a position 261  
or has an assignment that may include undercover or plain 262  
clothes positions or assignments as determined by the peace 263  
officer's appointing authority. 264

As used in divisions (A) (7), (A) (13) to (15), and (B) (9) 265  
of this section, "peace officer" has the same meaning as in 266  
section 109.71 of the Revised Code and also includes the 267  
superintendent and troopers of the state highway patrol; it does 268  
not include the sheriff of a county or a supervisory employee 269  
who, in the absence of the sheriff, is authorized to stand in 270  
for, exercise the authority of, and perform the duties of the 271  
sheriff. 272

As used in divisions (A) (7) and (B) (9) of this section, 273  
"correctional employee" means any employee of the department of 274  
rehabilitation and correction who in the course of performing 275  
the employee's job duties has or has had contact with inmates 276  
and persons under supervision. 277

As used in divisions (A) (7) and (B) (9) of this section, 278  
"youth services employee" means any employee of the department 279  
of youth services who in the course of performing the employee's 280  
job duties has or has had contact with children committed to the 281  
custody of the department of youth services. 282

As used in divisions (A) (7) and (B) (9) of this section, 283  
"firefighter" means any regular, paid or volunteer, member of a 284  
lawfully constituted fire department of a municipal corporation, 285  
township, fire district, or village. 286

As used in divisions (A) (7) and (B) (9) of this section, 287  
"EMT" means EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, and paramedics that provide 288  
emergency medical services for a public emergency medical 289  
service organization. "Emergency medical service organization," 290  
"EMT-basic," "EMT-I," and "paramedic" have the same meanings as 291  
in section 4765.01 of the Revised Code. 292

As used in divisions (A) (7) and (B) (9) of this section, 293  
"investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 294  
investigation" has the meaning defined in section 2903.11 of the 295  
Revised Code. 296

As used in divisions (A) (7) and (B) (9) of this section, 297  
"federal law enforcement officer" has the meaning defined in 298  
section 9.88 of the Revised Code. 299

(8) "Information pertaining to the recreational activities 300  
of a person under the age of eighteen" means information that is 301  
kept in the ordinary course of business by a public office, that 302  
pertains to the recreational activities of a person under the 303  
age of eighteen years, and that discloses any of the following: 304

(a) The address or telephone number of a person under the 305  
age of eighteen or the address or telephone number of that 306

person's parent, guardian, custodian, or emergency contact	307
person;	308
(b) The social security number, birth date, or	309
photographic image of a person under the age of eighteen;	310
(c) Any medical record, history, or information pertaining	311
to a person under the age of eighteen;	312
(d) Any additional information sought or required about a	313
person under the age of eighteen for the purpose of allowing	314
that person to participate in any recreational activity	315
conducted or sponsored by a public office or to use or obtain	316
admission privileges to any recreational facility owned or	317
operated by a public office.	318
(9) "Community control sanction" has the same meaning as	319
in section 2929.01 of the Revised Code.	320
(10) "Post-release control sanction" has the same meaning	321
as in section 2967.01 of the Revised Code.	322
(11) "Redaction" means obscuring or deleting any	323
information that is exempt from the duty to permit public	324
inspection or copying from an item that otherwise meets the	325
definition of a "record" in section 149.011 of the Revised Code.	326
(12) "Designee" and "elected official" have the same	327
meanings as in section 109.43 of the Revised Code.	328
(13) <u>"Body-worn camera" means a visual and audio recording</u>	329
<u>device worn on the person of a peace officer while the peace</u>	330
<u>officer is engaged in the performance of the peace officer's</u>	331
<u>duties.</u>	332
(14) <u>"Dashboard camera" means a visual and audio recording</u>	333
<u>device mounted on a peace officer's vehicle or vessel that is</u>	334

used while the peace officer is engaged in the performance of 335  
the peace officer's duties. 336

(15) "Restricted portions of a body-worn camera or 337  
dashboard camera recording" means any visual or audio portion of 338  
a body-worn camera or dashboard camera recording that shows, 339  
communicates, or discloses any of the following: 340

(a) The image or identity of a child or information that 341  
could lead to the identification of a child who is a primary 342  
subject of the recording when the law enforcement agency knows 343  
or has reason to know the person is a child based on the law 344  
enforcement agency's records or the content of the recording; 345

(b) The death of a person or a deceased person's body, 346  
unless the death was caused by a peace officer or, subject to 347  
division (H)(1) of this section, the consent of the decedent's 348  
executor or administrator has been obtained; 349

(c) The death of a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, 350  
or other first responder, occurring while the decedent was 351  
engaged in the performance of official duties, unless, subject 352  
to division (H)(1) of this section, the consent of the 353  
decedent's executor or administrator has been obtained; 354

(d) Grievous bodily harm, unless the injury was effected 355  
by a peace officer or, subject to division (H)(1) of this 356  
section, the consent of the injured person or the injured 357  
person's guardian has been obtained; 358

(e) An act of severe violence against a person that 359  
results in serious physical harm to the person, unless the act 360  
and injury was effected by a peace officer or, subject to 361  
division (H)(1) of this section, the consent of the injured 362  
person or the injured person's guardian has been obtained; 363

(f) Grievous bodily harm to a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, or other first responder, occurring while the injured person was engaged in the performance of official duties, unless, subject to division (H)(1) of this section, the consent of the injured person or the injured person's guardian has been obtained; 364  
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(g) An act of severe violence resulting in serious physical harm against a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, or other first responder, occurring while the injured person was engaged in the performance of official duties, unless, subject to division (H)(1) of this section, the consent of the injured person or the injured person's guardian has been obtained; 370  
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(h) A person's nude body, unless, subject to division (H)(1) of this section, the person's consent has been obtained; 376  
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(i) Protected health information, the identity of a person in a health care facility who is not the subject of a law enforcement encounter, or any other information in a health care facility that could identify a person who is not the subject of a law enforcement encounter; 378  
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(j) Information that could identify the alleged victim of a sex offense, menacing by stalking, or domestic violence; 383  
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(k) Information, that does not constitute a confidential law enforcement investigatory record, that could identify a person who provides sensitive or confidential information to a law enforcement agency when the disclosure of the person's identity or the information provided could reasonably be expected to threaten or endanger the safety or property of the person or another person; 385  
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(l) Personal information of a person who is not arrested, 392

<u>cited, charged, or issued a written warning by a peace officer;</u>	393
<u>(m) Proprietary police contingency plans or tactics that</u>	394
<u>are intended to prevent crime and maintain public order and</u>	395
<u>safety;</u>	396
<u>(n) A personal conversation unrelated to work between</u>	397
<u>peace officers or between a peace officer and an employee of a</u>	398
<u>law enforcement agency;</u>	399
<u>(o) A conversation between a peace officer and a member of</u>	400
<u>the public that does not concern law enforcement activities;</u>	401
<u>(p) The interior of a residence, unless the interior of a</u>	402
<u>residence is the location of an adversarial encounter with, or a</u>	403
<u>use of force by, a peace officer;</u>	404
<u>(q) Any portion of the interior of a private business that</u>	405
<u>is not open to the public, unless an adversarial encounter with,</u>	406
<u>or a use of force by, a peace officer occurs in that location.</u>	407
<u>As used in division (A) (15) of this section:</u>	408
<u>"Grievous bodily harm" has the same meaning as in section</u>	409
<u>5924.120 of the Revised Code.</u>	410
<u>"Health care facility" has the same meaning as in section</u>	411
<u>1337.11 of the Revised Code.</u>	412
<u>"Protected health information" has the same meaning as in</u>	413
<u>45 C.F.R. 160.103.</u>	414
<u>"Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in</u>	415
<u>section 2925.61 of the Revised Code.</u>	416
<u>"Personal information" means any government-issued</u>	417
<u>identification number, date of birth, address, financial</u>	418
<u>information, or criminal justice information from the law</u>	419

enforcement automated data system or similar databases. 420

"Sex offense" has the same meaning as in section 2907.10 421  
of the Revised Code. 422

"Firefighter," "paramedic," and "first responder" have the 423  
same meanings as in section 4765.01 of the Revised Code. 424

(B) (1) Upon request and subject to division (B) (8) of this 425  
section, all public records responsive to the request shall be 426  
promptly prepared and made available for inspection to any 427  
person at all reasonable times during regular business hours. 428  
Subject to division (B) (8) of this section, upon request, a 429  
public office or person responsible for public records shall 430  
make copies of the requested public record available at cost and 431  
within a reasonable period of time. If a public record contains 432  
information that is exempt from the duty to permit public 433  
inspection or to copy the public record, the public office or 434  
the person responsible for the public record shall make 435  
available all of the information within the public record that 436  
is not exempt. When making that public record available for 437  
public inspection or copying that public record, the public 438  
office or the person responsible for the public record shall 439  
notify the requester of any redaction or make the redaction 440  
plainly visible. A redaction shall be deemed a denial of a 441  
request to inspect or copy the redacted information, except if 442  
federal or state law authorizes or requires a public office to 443  
make the redaction. 444

(2) To facilitate broader access to public records, a 445  
public office or the person responsible for public records shall 446  
organize and maintain public records in a manner that they can 447  
be made available for inspection or copying in accordance with 448  
division (B) of this section. A public office also shall have 449



available a copy of its current records retention schedule at a 450  
location readily available to the public. If a requester makes 451  
an ambiguous or overly broad request or has difficulty in making 452  
a request for copies or inspection of public records under this 453  
section such that the public office or the person responsible 454  
for the requested public record cannot reasonably identify what 455  
public records are being requested, the public office or the 456  
person responsible for the requested public record may deny the 457  
request but shall provide the requester with an opportunity to 458  
revise the request by informing the requester of the manner in 459  
which records are maintained by the public office and accessed 460  
in the ordinary course of the public office's or person's 461  
duties. 462

(3) If a request is ultimately denied, in part or in 463  
whole, the public office or the person responsible for the 464  
requested public record shall provide the requester with an 465  
explanation, including legal authority, setting forth why the 466  
request was denied. If the initial request was provided in 467  
writing, the explanation also shall be provided to the requester 468  
in writing. The explanation shall not preclude the public office 469  
or the person responsible for the requested public record from 470  
relying upon additional reasons or legal authority in defending 471  
an action commenced under division (C) of this section. 472

(4) Unless specifically required or authorized by state or 473  
federal law or in accordance with division (B) of this section, 474  
no public office or person responsible for public records may 475  
limit or condition the availability of public records by 476  
requiring disclosure of the requester's identity or the intended 477  
use of the requested public record. Any requirement that the 478  
requester disclose the requester's identity or the intended use 479  
of the requested public record constitutes a denial of the 480

request. 481

(5) A public office or person responsible for public 482  
records may ask a requester to make the request in writing, may 483  
ask for the requester's identity, and may inquire about the 484  
intended use of the information requested, but may do so only 485  
after disclosing to the requester that a written request is not 486  
mandatory and that the requester may decline to reveal the 487  
requester's identity or the intended use and when a written 488  
request or disclosure of the identity or intended use would 489  
benefit the requester by enhancing the ability of the public 490  
office or person responsible for public records to identify, 491  
locate, or deliver the public records sought by the requester. 492

(6) If any person chooses to obtain a copy of a public 493  
record in accordance with division (B) of this section, the 494  
public office or person responsible for the public record may 495  
require that person to pay in advance the cost involved in 496  
providing the copy of the public record in accordance with the 497  
choice made by the person seeking the copy under this division. 498  
The public office or the person responsible for the public 499  
record shall permit that person to choose to have the public 500  
record duplicated upon paper, upon the same medium upon which 501  
the public office or person responsible for the public record 502  
keeps it, or upon any other medium upon which the public office 503  
or person responsible for the public record determines that it 504  
reasonably can be duplicated as an integral part of the normal 505  
operations of the public office or person responsible for the 506  
public record. When the person seeking the copy makes a choice 507  
under this division, the public office or person responsible for 508  
the public record shall provide a copy of it in accordance with 509  
the choice made by the person seeking the copy. Nothing in this 510  
section requires a public office or person responsible for the 511

public record to allow the person seeking a copy of the public 512  
record to make the copies of the public record. 513

(7) (a) Upon a request made in accordance with division (B) 514  
of this section and subject to division (B) (6) of this section, 515  
a public office or person responsible for public records shall 516  
transmit a copy of a public record to any person by United 517  
States mail or by any other means of delivery or transmission 518  
within a reasonable period of time after receiving the request 519  
for the copy. The public office or person responsible for the 520  
public record may require the person making the request to pay 521  
in advance the cost of postage if the copy is transmitted by 522  
United States mail or the cost of delivery if the copy is 523  
transmitted other than by United States mail, and to pay in 524  
advance the costs incurred for other supplies used in the 525  
mailing, delivery, or transmission. 526

(b) Any public office may adopt a policy and procedures 527  
that it will follow in transmitting, within a reasonable period 528  
of time after receiving a request, copies of public records by 529  
United States mail or by any other means of delivery or 530  
transmission pursuant to division (B) (7) of this section. A 531  
public office that adopts a policy and procedures under division 532  
(B) (7) of this section shall comply with them in performing its 533  
duties under that division. 534

(c) In any policy and procedures adopted under division 535  
(B) (7) of this section: 536

(i) A public office may limit the number of records 537  
requested by a person that the office will physically deliver by 538  
United States mail or by another delivery service to ten per 539  
month, unless the person certifies to the office in writing that 540  
the person does not intend to use or forward the requested 541

records, or the information contained in them, for commercial 542  
purposes; 543

(ii) A public office that chooses to provide some or all 544  
of its public records on a web site that is fully accessible to 545  
and searchable by members of the public at all times, other than 546  
during acts of God outside the public office's control or 547  
maintenance, and that charges no fee to search, access, 548  
download, or otherwise receive records provided on the web site, 549  
may limit to ten per month the number of records requested by a 550  
person that the office will deliver in a digital format, unless 551  
the requested records are not provided on the web site and 552  
unless the person certifies to the office in writing that the 553  
person does not intend to use or forward the requested records, 554  
or the information contained in them, for commercial purposes. 555

(iii) For purposes of division (B)(7) of this section, 556  
"commercial" shall be narrowly construed and does not include 557  
reporting or gathering news, reporting or gathering information 558  
to assist citizen oversight or understanding of the operation or 559  
activities of government, or nonprofit educational research. 560

(8) A public office or person responsible for public 561  
records is not required to permit a person who is incarcerated 562  
pursuant to a criminal conviction or a juvenile adjudication to 563  
inspect or to obtain a copy of any public record concerning a 564  
criminal investigation or prosecution or concerning what would 565  
be a criminal investigation or prosecution if the subject of the 566  
investigation or prosecution were an adult, unless the request 567  
to inspect or to obtain a copy of the record is for the purpose 568  
of acquiring information that is subject to release as a public 569  
record under this section and the judge who imposed the sentence 570  
or made the adjudication with respect to the person, or the 571

judge's successor in office, finds that the information sought 572  
in the public record is necessary to support what appears to be 573  
a justiciable claim of the person. 574

(9) (a) Upon written request made and signed by a 575  
journalist on or after December 16, 1999, a public office, or 576  
person responsible for public records, having custody of the 577  
records of the agency employing a specified peace officer, 578  
parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting 579  
attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, 580  
community-based correctional facility employee, youth services 581  
employee, firefighter, EMT, investigator of the bureau of 582  
criminal identification and investigation, or federal law 583  
enforcement officer shall disclose to the journalist the address 584  
of the actual personal residence of the peace officer, parole 585  
officer, probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting attorney, 586  
assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, 587  
community-based correctional facility employee, youth services 588  
employee, firefighter, EMT, investigator of the bureau of 589  
criminal identification and investigation, or federal law 590  
enforcement officer and, if the peace officer's, parole 591  
officer's, probation officer's, bailiff's, prosecuting 592  
attorney's, assistant prosecuting attorney's, correctional 593  
employee's, community-based correctional facility employee's, 594  
youth services employee's, firefighter's, EMT's, investigator of 595  
the bureau of criminal identification and investigation's, or 596  
federal law enforcement officer's spouse, former spouse, or 597  
child is employed by a public office, the name and address of 598  
the employer of the peace officer's, parole officer's, probation 599  
officer's, bailiff's, prosecuting attorney's, assistant 600  
prosecuting attorney's, correctional employee's, community-based 601  
correctional facility employee's, youth services employee's, 602

firefighter's, EMT's, investigator of the bureau of criminal 603  
identification and investigation's, or federal law enforcement 604  
officer's spouse, former spouse, or child. The request shall 605  
include the journalist's name and title and the name and address 606  
of the journalist's employer and shall state that disclosure of 607  
the information sought would be in the public interest. 608

(b) Division (B) (9) (a) of this section also applies to 609  
journalist requests for customer information maintained by a 610  
municipally owned or operated public utility, other than social 611  
security numbers and any private financial information such as 612  
credit reports, payment methods, credit card numbers, and bank 613  
account information. 614

(c) As used in division (B) (9) of this section, 615  
"journalist" means a person engaged in, connected with, or 616  
employed by any news medium, including a newspaper, magazine, 617  
press association, news agency, or wire service, a radio or 618  
television station, or a similar medium, for the purpose of 619  
gathering, processing, transmitting, compiling, editing, or 620  
disseminating information for the general public. 621

(C) (1) If a person allegedly is aggrieved by the failure 622  
of a public office or the person responsible for public records 623  
to promptly prepare a public record and to make it available to 624  
the person for inspection in accordance with division (B) of 625  
this section or by any other failure of a public office or the 626  
person responsible for public records to comply with an 627  
obligation in accordance with division (B) of this section, the 628  
person allegedly aggrieved may do only one of the following, and 629  
not both: 630

(a) File a complaint with the clerk of the court of claims 631  
or the clerk of the court of common pleas under section 2743.75 632

of the Revised Code; 633

(b) Commence a mandamus action to obtain a judgment that 634  
orders the public office or the person responsible for the 635  
public record to comply with division (B) of this section, that 636  
awards court costs and reasonable attorney's fees to the person 637  
that instituted the mandamus action, and, if applicable, that 638  
includes an order fixing statutory damages under division (C) (2) 639  
of this section. The mandamus action may be commenced in the 640  
court of common pleas of the county in which division (B) of 641  
this section allegedly was not complied with, in the supreme 642  
court pursuant to its original jurisdiction under Section 2 of 643  
Article IV, Ohio Constitution, or in the court of appeals for 644  
the appellate district in which division (B) of this section 645  
allegedly was not complied with pursuant to its original 646  
jurisdiction under Section 3 of Article IV, Ohio Constitution. 647

(2) If a requester transmits a written request by hand 648  
delivery or certified mail to inspect or receive copies of any 649  
public record in a manner that fairly describes the public 650  
record or class of public records to the public office or person 651  
responsible for the requested public records, except as 652  
otherwise provided in this section, the requester shall be 653  
entitled to recover the amount of statutory damages set forth in 654  
this division if a court determines that the public office or 655  
the person responsible for public records failed to comply with 656  
an obligation in accordance with division (B) of this section. 657

The amount of statutory damages shall be fixed at one 658  
hundred dollars for each business day during which the public 659  
office or person responsible for the requested public records 660  
failed to comply with an obligation in accordance with division 661  
(B) of this section, beginning with the day on which the 662

requester files a mandamus action to recover statutory damages, 663  
up to a maximum of one thousand dollars. The award of statutory 664  
damages shall not be construed as a penalty, but as compensation 665  
for injury arising from lost use of the requested information. 666  
The existence of this injury shall be conclusively presumed. The 667  
award of statutory damages shall be in addition to all other 668  
remedies authorized by this section. 669

The court may reduce an award of statutory damages or not 670  
award statutory damages if the court determines both of the 671  
following: 672

(a) That, based on the ordinary application of statutory 673  
law and case law as it existed at the time of the conduct or 674  
threatened conduct of the public office or person responsible 675  
for the requested public records that allegedly constitutes a 676  
failure to comply with an obligation in accordance with division 677  
(B) of this section and that was the basis of the mandamus 678  
action, a well-informed public office or person responsible for 679  
the requested public records reasonably would believe that the 680  
conduct or threatened conduct of the public office or person 681  
responsible for the requested public records did not constitute 682  
a failure to comply with an obligation in accordance with 683  
division (B) of this section; 684

(b) That a well-informed public office or person 685  
responsible for the requested public records reasonably would 686  
believe that the conduct or threatened conduct of the public 687  
office or person responsible for the requested public records 688  
would serve the public policy that underlies the authority that 689  
is asserted as permitting that conduct or threatened conduct. 690

(3) In a mandamus action filed under division (C) (1) of 691  
this section, the following apply: 692



(a) (i) If the court orders the public office or the person responsible for the public record to comply with division (B) of this section, the court shall determine and award to the relator all court costs, which shall be construed as remedial and not punitive.

(ii) If the court makes a determination described in division (C) (3) (b) (iii) of this section, the court shall determine and award to the relator all court costs, which shall be construed as remedial and not punitive.

(b) If the court renders a judgment that orders the public office or the person responsible for the public record to comply with division (B) of this section or if the court determines any of the following, the court may award reasonable attorney's fees to the relator, subject to the provisions of division (C) (4) of this section:

(i) The public office or the person responsible for the public records failed to respond affirmatively or negatively to the public records request in accordance with the time allowed under division (B) of this section.

(ii) The public office or the person responsible for the public records promised to permit the relator to inspect or receive copies of the public records requested within a specified period of time but failed to fulfill that promise within that specified period of time.

(iii) The public office or the person responsible for the public records acted in bad faith when the office or person voluntarily made the public records available to the relator for the first time after the relator commenced the mandamus action, but before the court issued any order concluding whether or not

the public office or person was required to comply with division 722  
(B) of this section. No discovery may be conducted on the issue 723  
of the alleged bad faith of the public office or person 724  
responsible for the public records. This division shall not be 725  
construed as creating a presumption that the public office or 726  
the person responsible for the public records acted in bad faith 727  
when the office or person voluntarily made the public records 728  
available to the relator for the first time after the relator 729  
commenced the mandamus action, but before the court issued any 730  
order described in this division. 731

(c) The court shall not award attorney's fees to the 732  
relator if the court determines both of the following: 733

(i) That, based on the ordinary application of statutory 734  
law and case law as it existed at the time of the conduct or 735  
threatened conduct of the public office or person responsible 736  
for the requested public records that allegedly constitutes a 737  
failure to comply with an obligation in accordance with division 738  
(B) of this section and that was the basis of the mandamus 739  
action, a well-informed public office or person responsible for 740  
the requested public records reasonably would believe that the 741  
conduct or threatened conduct of the public office or person 742  
responsible for the requested public records did not constitute 743  
a failure to comply with an obligation in accordance with 744  
division (B) of this section; 745

(ii) That a well-informed public office or person 746  
responsible for the requested public records reasonably would 747  
believe that the conduct or threatened conduct of the public 748  
office or person responsible for the requested public records 749  
would serve the public policy that underlies the authority that 750  
is asserted as permitting that conduct or threatened conduct. 751

(4) All of the following apply to any award of reasonable attorney's fees awarded under division (C) (3) (b) of this section: 752  
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(a) The fees shall be construed as remedial and not punitive. 755  
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(b) The fees awarded shall not exceed the total of the reasonable attorney's fees incurred before the public record was made available to the relator and the fees described in division (C) (4) (c) of this section. 757  
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(c) Reasonable attorney's fees shall include reasonable fees incurred to produce proof of the reasonableness and amount of the fees and to otherwise litigate entitlement to the fees. 761  
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(d) The court may reduce the amount of fees awarded if the court determines that, given the factual circumstances involved with the specific public records request, an alternative means should have been pursued to more effectively and efficiently resolve the dispute that was subject to the mandamus action filed under division (C) (1) of this section. 764  
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(5) If the court does not issue a writ of mandamus under division (C) of this section and the court determines at that time that the bringing of the mandamus action was frivolous conduct as defined in division (A) of section 2323.51 of the Revised Code, the court may award to the public office all court costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees, as determined by the court. 770  
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(D) Chapter 1347. of the Revised Code does not limit the provisions of this section. 777  
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(E) (1) To ensure that all employees of public offices are appropriately educated about a public office's obligations under 779  
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division (B) of this section, all elected officials or their 781  
appropriate designees shall attend training approved by the 782  
attorney general as provided in section 109.43 of the Revised 783  
Code. In addition, all public offices shall adopt a public 784  
records policy in compliance with this section for responding to 785  
public records requests. In adopting a public records policy 786  
under this division, a public office may obtain guidance from 787  
the model public records policy developed and provided to the 788  
public office by the attorney general under section 109.43 of 789  
the Revised Code. Except as otherwise provided in this section, 790  
the policy may not limit the number of public records that the 791  
public office will make available to a single person, may not 792  
limit the number of public records that it will make available 793  
during a fixed period of time, and may not establish a fixed 794  
period of time before it will respond to a request for 795  
inspection or copying of public records, unless that period is 796  
less than eight hours. 797

(2) The public office shall distribute the public records 798  
policy adopted by the public office under division (E)(1) of 799  
this section to the employee of the public office who is the 800  
records custodian or records manager or otherwise has custody of 801  
the records of that office. The public office shall require that 802  
employee to acknowledge receipt of the copy of the public 803  
records policy. The public office shall create a poster that 804  
describes its public records policy and shall post the poster in 805  
a conspicuous place in the public office and in all locations 806  
where the public office has branch offices. The public office 807  
may post its public records policy on the internet web site of 808  
the public office if the public office maintains an internet web 809  
site. A public office that has established a manual or handbook 810  
of its general policies and procedures for all employees of the 811

public office shall include the public records policy of the 812  
public office in the manual or handbook. 813

(F) (1) The bureau of motor vehicles may adopt rules 814  
pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to reasonably limit 815  
the number of bulk commercial special extraction requests made 816  
by a person for the same records or for updated records during a 817  
calendar year. The rules may include provisions for charges to 818  
be made for bulk commercial special extraction requests for the 819  
actual cost of the bureau, plus special extraction costs, plus 820  
ten per cent. The bureau may charge for expenses for redacting 821  
information, the release of which is prohibited by law. 822

(2) As used in division (F) (1) of this section: 823

(a) "Actual cost" means the cost of depleted supplies, 824  
records storage media costs, actual mailing and alternative 825  
delivery costs, or other transmitting costs, and any direct 826  
equipment operating and maintenance costs, including actual 827  
costs paid to private contractors for copying services. 828

(b) "Bulk commercial special extraction request" means a 829  
request for copies of a record for information in a format other 830  
than the format already available, or information that cannot be 831  
extracted without examination of all items in a records series, 832  
class of records, or database by a person who intends to use or 833  
forward the copies for surveys, marketing, solicitation, or 834  
resale for commercial purposes. "Bulk commercial special 835  
extraction request" does not include a request by a person who 836  
gives assurance to the bureau that the person making the request 837  
does not intend to use or forward the requested copies for 838  
surveys, marketing, solicitation, or resale for commercial 839  
purposes. 840

(c) "Commercial" means profit-seeking production, buying, 841  
or selling of any good, service, or other product. 842

(d) "Special extraction costs" means the cost of the time 843  
spent by the lowest paid employee competent to perform the task, 844  
the actual amount paid to outside private contractors employed 845  
by the bureau, or the actual cost incurred to create computer 846  
programs to make the special extraction. "Special extraction 847  
costs" include any charges paid to a public agency for computer 848  
or records services. 849

(3) For purposes of divisions (F) (1) and (2) of this 850  
section, "surveys, marketing, solicitation, or resale for 851  
commercial purposes" shall be narrowly construed and does not 852  
include reporting or gathering news, reporting or gathering 853  
information to assist citizen oversight or understanding of the 854  
operation or activities of government, or nonprofit educational 855  
research. 856

(G) A request by a defendant, counsel of a defendant, or 857  
any agent of a defendant in a criminal action that public 858  
records related to that action be made available under this 859  
section shall be considered a demand for discovery pursuant to 860  
the Criminal Rules, except to the extent that the Criminal Rules 861  
plainly indicate a contrary intent. The defendant, counsel of 862  
the defendant, or agent of the defendant making a request under 863  
this division shall serve a copy of the request on the 864  
prosecuting attorney, director of law, or other chief legal 865  
officer responsible for prosecuting the action. 866

(H) (1) Any portion of a body-worn camera or dashboard 867  
camera recording described in divisions (A) (15) (b) to (h) of 868  
this section may be released by consent of the subject of the 869  
recording or a representative of that person, as specified in 870

those divisions, only if either of the following applies: 871

(a) The recording will not be used in connection with any 872  
probable or pending criminal proceedings; 873

(b) The recording has been used in connection with a 874  
criminal proceeding that was dismissed or for which a judgment 875  
has been entered pursuant to Rule 32 of the Rules of Criminal 876  
Procedure, and will not be used again in connection with any 877  
probable or pending criminal proceedings. 878

(2) If a public office denies a request to release a 879  
restricted portion of a body-worn camera or dashboard camera 880  
recording, as defined in division (A) (15) of this section, any 881  
person may file a mandamus action pursuant to this section or a 882  
complaint with the clerk of the court of claims pursuant to 883  
section 2743.75 of the Revised Code, requesting the court to 884  
order the release of all or portions of the recording. If the 885  
court considering the request determines that the filing 886  
articulates by clear and convincing evidence that the public 887  
interest in the recording substantially outweighs privacy 888  
interests and other interests asserted to deny release, the 889  
court shall order the public office to release the recording. 890

**Sec. 149.433.** (A) As used in this section: 891

"Act of terrorism" has the same meaning as in section 892  
2909.21 of the Revised Code. 893

"Express statement" means a written statement 894  
substantially similar to the following: "This information is 895  
voluntarily submitted to a public office in expectation of 896  
protection from disclosure as provided by section 149.433 of the 897  
Revised Code." 898

"Infrastructure record" means any record that discloses 899

the configuration of critical systems including, but not limited 900  
to, communication, computer, electrical, mechanical, 901  
ventilation, water, and plumbing systems, security codes, or the 902  
infrastructure or structural configuration of a building. 903

"Infrastructure record" includes a risk assessment of 904  
infrastructure performed by a state or local law enforcement 905  
agency at the request of a property owner or manager. 906

"Infrastructure record" does not mean a simple floor plan 907  
that discloses only the spatial relationship of components of 908  
the building. 909

"Security record" means any of the following: 910

(1) Any record that contains information directly used for 911  
protecting or maintaining the security of a public office 912  
against attack, interference, or sabotage; 913

(2) Any record assembled, prepared, or maintained by a 914  
public office or public body to prevent, mitigate, or respond to 915  
acts of terrorism, including any of the following: 916

(a) Those portions of records containing specific and 917  
unique vulnerability assessments or specific and unique response 918  
plans either of which is intended to prevent or mitigate acts of 919  
terrorism, and communication codes or deployment plans of law 920  
enforcement or emergency response personnel; 921

(b) Specific intelligence information and specific 922  
investigative records shared by federal and international law 923  
enforcement agencies with state and local law enforcement and 924  
public safety agencies; 925

(c) National security records classified under federal 926  
executive order and not subject to public disclosure under 927



federal law that are shared by federal agencies, and other 928  
records related to national security briefings to assist state 929  
and local government with domestic preparedness for acts of 930  
terrorism. 931

(3) An emergency management plan adopted pursuant to 932  
section 3313.536 of the Revised Code. 933

(B) (1) A record kept by a public office that is a security 934  
record is not a public record under section 149.43 of the 935  
Revised Code and is not subject to mandatory release or 936  
disclosure under that section. 937

(2) A record kept by a public office that is an 938  
infrastructure record of a public office, public school, or a 939  
chartered nonpublic school is not a public record under section 940  
149.43 of the Revised Code and is not subject to mandatory 941  
release or disclosure under that section. 942

(3) A record kept by a public office that is an 943  
infrastructure record of a private entity may be exempted from 944  
release or disclosure under division (C) of this section. 945

(C) A record prepared by, submitted to, or kept by a 946  
public office that is an infrastructure record of a private 947  
entity, which is submitted to the public office for use by the 948  
public office, when accompanied by an express statement, is 949  
exempt from release or disclosure under section 149.43 of the 950  
Revised Code for a period of twenty-five years after its 951  
creation if it is retained by the public office for that length 952  
of time. 953

(D) Notwithstanding any other section of the Revised Code, 954  
disclosure by a public office, public employee, chartered 955  
nonpublic school, or chartered nonpublic school employee of a 956

security record or infrastructure record that is necessary for 957  
construction, renovation, or remodeling work on any public 958  
building or project or chartered nonpublic school does not 959  
constitute public disclosure for purposes of waiving division 960  
(B) of this section and does not result in that record becoming 961  
a public record for purposes of section 149.43 of the Revised 962  
Code. 963

**Section 2.** That existing sections 149.43 and 149.433 of 964  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 965