



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Alyssa Bethel

H.B. 576

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Ryan, Becker, Hood, Brenner, Henne, Perales, Hambley

BILL SUMMARY

- Exempts from disclosure as a public record financial account numbers, financial identifying information, and taxpayer electronic mail address lists used by county treasurers to deliver tax bills.
- Specifies expressly that a public office must redact information exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act before making a record available.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Financial information and taxpayer electronic mail address lists exempt under Public Records Act

The bill excludes from disclosure as a public record under the Public Records Act¹ both of the following: (1) financial account numbers or financial account identifying information in records, including the financial institution's identity that maintains a financial account,² and (2) taxpayer electronic mail address lists a county treasurer's office creates and uses to deliver tax bill or tax payment information.³ Under the Public Records Act, a public office generally is required to make available to a requestor any records the public office keeps.⁴ "Records" includes any document, device, or item, regardless of physical form or characteristic, including an electronic

¹ R.C. 149.43.

² R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(dd).

³ R.C. 323.13.

⁴ R.C. 149.43(B), subject to certain conditions and exemptions throughout R.C. 149.43 and the Revised Code.

record, created or received by or coming under the jurisdiction of any public office of the state or its political subdivisions, which serves to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the office.⁵

By exempting the above from disclosure under the Public Records Act, the bill requires a public office to redact financial account numbers or financial account identifying information before making a record containing that information available to a requestor. And, taxpayer electronic mail address lists county treasurers create and use to deliver tax bills are not subject to disclosure as a public record.

Public office must redact exempt information

The bill expressly requires a public office or person responsible for a public record, when making a record available to a requestor, to redact any information that is exempt from disclosure before providing the record to the requestor.⁶ Current law implies that exempted information must be redacted, but the bill expressly provides so.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-25-16

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⁵ R.C. 149.011(G).

⁶ R.C. 149.43(B)(1).

