

H.54

An act relating to Public Records Act exemptions

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. DRAFT PUBLIC RECORDS BILL; OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

(a) To advance the objectives of 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 11, which created a Public Records Legislative Study Committee (“Committee”) charged with reviewing the requirements of the Public Records Act and the numerous exemptions to that Act, staff of the Office of Legislative Council (“staff”) shall prepare and submit to the Committee a draft bill on or before November 1, 2013 that:

(1) lists in one statutory provision in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3 all exemptions to the public inspection and copying requirements of the Public Records Act that are set forth throughout the Vermont Statutes Annotated;

(2) amends existing exemptions to the Public Records Act set forth throughout the Vermont Statutes Annotated in order to cross-reference the list required under subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

(3) amends exemptions to the Public Records Act as recommended by the Committee in its 2012 and 2013 annual reports, as those recommendations were proposed to be updated in version 3.2 of the House Government Operation Committee’s draft strike-all amendment to House Bill No. 54.

(b) In preparing the draft bill required under subsection (a) of this section, staff shall consolidate exemptions that relate to the same subject matter into a single exemption, if consolidation does not alter the substance of an exemption. Staff shall prepare for the Committee's review a list of exemptions for which consolidation may be appropriate, but for which consolidation would potentially alter the substance of an exemption.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.