

1 H.863

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

3 Date:

4 Subject: Public Records Act; exemptions; identity of complainants

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a

6 Public Records Act exemption to protect the identity of persons who submit

7 complaints about public agency or government contractor misconduct.

8 An act relating to ~~a Public Records Act exemption for the identity of~~  
9 ~~whistleblowers~~ *public records*

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

11 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and  
13 copying:

14 \* \* \*

15 (41) documents reviewed by the ~~Vietim's~~ Victims Compensation Board  
16 for purposes of approving an application for compensation pursuant to

17 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, except as provided by 13 V.S.A. §§ 5360 and 7043(c);

18 (42) except as otherwise provided by law, information that could be  
19 used to identify a complainant who alleges that a public agency, a public  
20 employee or official, or a person providing goods or services to a public

1 agency under contract has engaged in a violation of law, or in waste, fraud, or  
2 abuse of authority, or in an act creating a threat to health or safety, unless the  
3 complainant consents to disclosure of his or her identity.

*Sec. 2. IDENTIFYING VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS BURIED  
IN CEMETERY AND ON HOSPITAL GROUNDS FROM 1891 TO 1913*

*Consistent with the goal of Joint Resolution No. R-109 (2013) to preserve  
the memory of individuals buried in the cemetery and on the grounds of the  
former Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, and to enable the identification  
of individuals buried in unmarked graves so that these individuals will not be  
left unknown, the State of Vermont shall, upon request and notwithstanding  
any provision of Vermont law, release records dating from 1891 to 1913 to the  
extent necessary to assist in the identification of patients buried in the  
Hospital's cemetery and on its grounds in unmarked graves from 1891 to  
1913.*

4 Sec. ~~2~~ 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.