

1 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

2 Date:

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

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
5 Public Records Act exemption to protect the identity of persons who submit
6 complaints about public agency or government contractor misconduct.

7 An act relating to a Public Records Act exemption for the identity of
8 whistleblowers

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

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

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

13 * * *

14 (41) documents reviewed by the ~~Victim's~~ Victims Compensation Board
15 for purposes of approving an application for compensation pursuant to 13
16 V.S.A. chapter 167, except as provided by 13 V.S.A. §§ 5360 and 7043(c);

17 (42) except as otherwise provided by law, information that could be
18 used to identify a complainant who alleges that a public agency, a public
19 employee or official, or a person providing goods or services to a public
20 agency under contract has engaged in a violation of law, or in waste, fraud, or

1 abuse of authority, or in an act creating a threat to health or safety, unless the
2 complainant consents to disclosure of his or her identity.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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