

Sec. 20. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Since the General Assembly enacted the Public Records Act, the Vermont Supreme Court has interpreted the Act's personal records exemption several times. The General Assembly intends to amend that exemption to reflect the Supreme Court's rulings.

Sec. 21. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c) is amended to read:

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

\* \* \*

(7) Personal documents relating to an individual that contain intimate details of the individual's life where release of such details would subject the individual to embarrassment, harassment, disgrace, or loss of employment or friends. Such details may include:

(A) Information maintained to hire, evaluate, promote, or discipline any employee of a public agency, provided that such information shall be made available to that individual employee or designated representative unless it is elsewhere deemed from public inspection or copying;

(B) Information relating to personal or corporate finances; or

(C) Information relating to medical or psychological facts.

However, records may be released notwithstanding their exemption under this subsection if the public interest in disclosure outweighs any privacy interest in withholding the records.