

(a) Study. The Agency of Administration, in consultation with the Agency of Digital Services ~~and~~, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General's Office, and other State Agencies as requested by the Agency of Administration, shall conduct a study to determine the various considerations and impacts on State public agencies if public agencies were required to conform to the disclosure policies set forth in this act regarding ensuring the confidentiality of state and local employees' personal information. The Agency shall meet with and receive ~~testimony~~input from relevant stakeholders in conducting its study, including but not limited to, other appropriate agencies, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association. The Agency shall consider the following in its study:

(1) if public agencies were required to cease disclosing protected information of covered persons:

(A) the extent to which public agencies would currently be able to accommodate these requests;

(B) the fiscal and resource impact on public agencies; ~~and~~

(C) whether additional staffing or training would be needed to comply;

(D) the degree to which risk can be mitigated through State or local policy;

(E) which statutes, regulation, and administrative policies/standards requiring change to accomplish the goals relating to maintaining confidentiality of personal public employee information.

(2) how other states have implemented similar requirements on their public agencies, including the types of penalties levied for noncompliance; and

(3) the feasibility of creating a State office ~~within the Agency~~ to manage all statewide requests to cease disclosing protected information.

(4) additional areas of study as determined by the Agency and consulting agencies as necessary.

(b) Report. On or before December 1, 2026, the Agency of Administration shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with a summary of its findings pursuant to the study set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The Agency shall also include in its report its recommendations for legislative action as well as a suggested timeline for the implementation of the disclosure policies on public agencies.