

Open Records—Exemptions Related to Law Enforcement Officers, Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Concealed Carry; Requests to KBI Central Repository; SB 81

SB 81 amends two statutes in the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA).

The bill amends exemptions from KORA related to law enforcement officers, parole officers, probation officers, court services officers, community correctional officers, federal judges, Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges, district judges, district magistrate judges, U.S. attorneys, the Kansas Attorney General, assistant attorneys general, and county and district attorneys, in KSA 45-221. Specifically, the bill amends the exemption from KORA for the home address or home ownership records of such persons to restrict the exemption to records on a public website that are searchable by a keyword search. The bill extends from seven to ten days the length of time a public agency has to restrict such information from public access after receiving a request to do so.

Additionally, the bill strikes a provision allowing agency heads or employers to make such requests under these exemptions on behalf of their officers or employees. The bill also establishes that the restrictions under the exemption expire after five years, requiring a person covered by the exemption to file a new request to continue the restriction.

The bill creates a new exemption prohibiting a public agency from disclosing the name, home address, e-mail address, phone numbers, or other contact information for any person licensed to carry concealed handguns, any person who has enrolled in or completed weapons training for concealed carry licensure, or any person who has applied for a concealed carry license.

The bill also resolves two conflicts between different versions of the statute by striking a reference to the Ombudsman of Corrections and by repealing a version of the statute containing an exemption for the contents of appraisals or engineering or feasibility estimates or evaluations made by or for a public agency relative to the disposal of property.

Finally, the bill requires requests for records submitted to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) central repository or other KBI repositories supporting the criminal justice information system to be directed to the criminal justice agency from which the records originated. An exception is provided for requests of summary data compiled from information submitted by multiple criminal justice agencies.