

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Without Recommendation as to Passage but with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Shannon Sivell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/21, 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts information identifying holder or applicant for concealed handgun license (CHL) from being released to the public unless requestor can establish by clear and convincing evidence that the public interest in disclosure outweighs the holder's privacy. Allows CHL holder to request notification from sheriff if there is a records request for the holder's permit. Requires custodian of records to consider any information the holder provides prior to making decision to release holder's information. Explains procedure for appealing if access to a public record is denied by custodian of records.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Public records law
- Current state of the law
- Privacy for CHL holders and victims
- Public's right to access

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Explains procedure for appealing if access to a public record is denied by custodian of records.

BACKGROUND: HB 2727B is aimed at protecting people with CHL's from having their names and CHL status released to the public. In addition to privacy concerns, in difficult economic times, it could make CHL holders targets of theft and robbery. It is also possible that victims who have sought to protect themselves, such as female victims of violence, would be further victimized by having their names and home addresses released as part of the CHL information. The CHL information could still be released pursuant to a subpoena or court order issued by a judge.