

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**


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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Boquist, George, Monroe, Shields
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Specifies that information collected during a Board of Accountancy investigation is confidential unless notice is issued for a contested case hearing or the matter is resolved by Board action or consent order. Permits the Board to disclose that it is conducting an investigation, and requires the Board to notify the person being investigated.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Access to information during investigative process

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The process of investigating complaints filed against licensees of the Board of Accountancy is currently open to public disclosure. Abuse of the complaint process is possible when a consumer files a frivolous complaint or a competitor files a complaint. The complainant in either situation can then publicly disclose any documents, including income tax statements and other sensitive personal financial information. Because of the current disclosure statute, attorneys in civil litigation are reluctant to share information for an investigation being conducted by the Board until the civil matter is closed, which may take several years.