



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 94

Introduced by: **Senator** Carley

1 **An Act to revise provisions pertaining to open records.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That § 1-27-1.5 be AMENDED:**

4 **1-27-1.5.** The following records are not subject to §§ 1-27-1, 1-27-1.1, 1-27-1.3,
5 and ~~§~~ 1-27-1.23:

- 6 (1) Personal information in records regarding any student, prospective student, or
7 former student of any educational institution, ~~if such~~ the records are maintained
8 by and in the possession of a public entity, other than routine directory information
9 specified and made public in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g ~~as the law existed~~
10 ~~on~~ (January 1, 2009);
- 11 (2) Medical records, including all records of drug or alcohol testing, treatment, or
12 counseling, other than records of births and deaths. ~~This, provided this~~ subdivision
13 in no way abrogates or changes existing state and federal law pertaining to birth
14 and death records;
- 15 (3) Trade secrets, the specific details of bona fide research, applied research, or
16 scholarly or creative artistic projects being conducted at a school, postsecondary
17 institution, or laboratory funded in whole or in part by the state, and other
18 proprietary or commercial information ~~which that~~ if released would infringe
19 intellectual property rights, give advantage to business competitors, or serve no
20 material public purpose;
- 21 (4) Records ~~which that~~ consist of attorney work product or ~~which~~ are subject to any
22 privilege recognized in article V of chapter 19-19;
- 23 (5) Records developed or received by law enforcement agencies and other public bodies
24 charged with duties of investigation or examination of persons, institutions, or
25 businesses, if the records constitute a part of the examination, investigation,
26 intelligence information, citizen complaint or inquiry, informant identification, or

- 1 strategic or tactical information used in law enforcement training. ~~This, provided~~
 2 this subdivision does;
- 3 (a) ~~Does~~ not apply to records so developed or received relating to the presence
 4 of and amount or concentration of alcohol or drugs in any body fluid of any
 5 person, ~~and this subdivision does;~~
- 6 (b) ~~Does~~ not apply to a 911 recording or a transcript of a 911 recording if the
 7 agency or a court determines that the public interest in disclosure outweighs
 8 the interest in nondisclosure. ~~This law in; and~~
- 9 (c) ~~In~~ no way abrogates or changes §§ 23-5-7 and 23-5-11 or testimonial
 10 privileges applying to the use of information from confidential informants;
- 11 (6) Appraisals or appraisal information and negotiation records concerning the purchase
 12 or sale, by a public body, of any interest in real or personal property;
- 13 (7) Personnel information other than salaries and routine directory information. ~~This,~~
 14 provided this subdivision does not apply to the public inspection or copying of any
 15 current or prior contract with any public employee and any related document that
 16 specifies the consideration to be paid to the employee;
- 17 (8) ~~Information pertaining to~~ The following information regarding the protection of
 18 ~~public or private property and any person on or within public or private property~~
 19 including persons or property:
- 20 (a) Any vulnerability assessment or response plan intended to prevent or
 21 mitigate criminal acts;
- 22 (b) Emergency management or response;
- 23 (c) Public safety information that would create a substantial likelihood of
 24 endangering public safety or property, if disclosed;
- 25 (d) Cyber security plans, computer or communications network schema,
 26 passwords, or user identification names;
- 27 (e) Guard schedules;
- 28 (f) Lock combinations; and
- 29 (g) Any blueprint, building plan, or infrastructure record regarding any building
 30 or facility that would expose or create vulnerability through disclosure of
 31 the location, configuration, or security of critical systems of the building or
 32 facility;
- 33 (9) The security standards, procedures, policies, plans, specifications, diagrams, access
 34 lists, and other security-related records of the ~~Gaming~~ South Dakota Commission
 35 on Gaming and those persons or entities with which the commission has entered

- 1 into contractual relationships. ~~Nothing, provided that nothing~~ in this subdivision
 2 allows the commission to withhold from the public any information relating to
 3 amounts paid to persons or entities with which the commission has entered into
 4 contractual relationships, amounts of prizes paid, the name of the prize winner,
 5 and the municipality, or county where the prize winner resides;
- 6 (10) Personally identified private citizen account payment information, credit information
 7 on others supplied in confidence, and customer lists;
- 8 (11) Records or portions of records kept by a publicly funded library which, when
 9 examined with or without other records, reveal the identity of any library patron
 10 using the library's materials or services;
- 11 (12) Correspondence, memoranda, calendars or logs of appointments, working papers,
 12 and records of telephone calls of public officials or employees, which are not
 13 maintained, stored, or retained by a public body on a publicly owned, operated, or
 14 controlled system;
- 15 (13) Records or portions of records kept by public bodies, which would reveal the
 16 location, character, or ownership of any known archaeological, historical, or
 17 paleontological site in South Dakota, if necessary to protect the site from a
 18 reasonably held fear of theft, vandalism, or trespass. This, provided this subdivision
 19 does not apply to the release of information for the purpose of scholarly research,
 20 examination by other public bodies for the protection of the resource or by
 21 recognized tribes, or the ~~federal~~ Native American Graves Protection and
 22 Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 3001 to 3013, inclusive (January 1, 2026);
- 23 (14) Records or portions of records kept by public bodies ~~which that~~ maintain collections
 24 of archeological, historical, or paleontological significance, which nongovernmental
 25 donors have requested to remain closed or which reveal the names and addresses
 26 of donors of ~~such the~~ articles of archaeological, historical, or paleontological
 27 significance, unless the donor approves disclosure, ~~except as the, provided this~~
 28 subdivision does not apply to records or portions thereof that may be needed to
 29 carry out the purposes of ~~the federal~~;
- 30 (a) The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C.
 31 §§ 3001 to 3013, inclusive (January 1, 2026); and the
- 32 (b) The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470aa to
 33 470mm, inclusive (January 1, 2026);

- 1 (15) Employment applications and related materials, except for applications and related
 2 materials submitted by individuals hired into executive or policymaking positions
 3 of any public body;
- 4 (16) Social security numbers; credit card, charge card, or debit card numbers and
 5 expiration dates; passport numbers; driver license numbers; or other personally
 6 identifying numbers or codes; and financial account numbers supplied to state and
 7 local governments by citizens or held by state and local governments regarding
 8 employees or contractors;
- 9 (17) Any emergency or disaster response plans or protocols, safety or security audits or
 10 reviews, or lists of emergency or disaster response personnel or material; and any
 11 location or listing of weapons or ammunition; nuclear, chemical, or biological
 12 agents; or other military or law enforcement equipment or personnel;
- 13 (18) Any test questions, scoring keys, results, or other examination data for any
 14 examination to obtain licensure, employment, promotion or reclassification, or
 15 academic credit;
- 16 (19) Personal correspondence, memoranda, notes, calendars or appointment logs, or
 17 other personal records or documents of any public official or employee;
- 18 (20) Any document declared closed or confidential by court order, contract, or stipulation
 19 of the parties to any civil or criminal action or proceeding, except as provided under
 20 § 1-27-1.23;
- 21 (21) Any list of names or other personally identifying data of occupants of camping or
 22 lodging facilities from the Department of Game, Fish and Parks;
- 23 (22) Records ~~which that~~, if disclosed, would constitute an unreasonable release of
 24 personal information;
- 25 (23) Records ~~which that~~, if released, could endanger the life or safety of any person;
- 26 (24) Internal agency ~~record~~ records or information received by agencies ~~that are~~, which
 27 are not required to be filed with ~~such the~~ agencies, if the ~~records do not constitute~~
 28 ~~final statistical or factual tabulations, final instructions to staff that affect the public,~~
 29 ~~or final agency policy or determinations, or any completed state or federal audit~~
 30 ~~and if the information is not otherwise public under other state law, including~~
 31 ~~chapter 15-15A and § 1-26-21~~ information is not otherwise public under state law,
 32 including chapter 15-15A and § 1-26-21, and if the records do not constitute:
 33 (a) Final statistical or factual tabulations;
 34 (b) Final instructions to staff, which affect the public;
 35 (c) Final agency policy or determinations; or

- 1 (d) Any completed state or federal audit;
- 2 (25) Records of individual children regarding commitment to the Department of
- 3 Corrections pursuant to chapters 26-8B and 26-8C;
- 4 (26) Records regarding inmate disciplinary matters pursuant to § 1-15-20, and records
- 5 regarding jail inmate disciplinary matters pursuant to § 24-11-23;
- 6 (27) Any other record made closed or confidential by state or federal statute or rule or
- 7 as necessary to participate in federal programs and benefits;
- 8 (28) A record of a settlement agreement or litigation regarding investment or bankruptcy
- 9 and involving the South Dakota Investment Council or the South Dakota
- 10 Retirement System, or both, unless the settlement or litigation results in a finding
- 11 of liability against the council or system, or both; and
- 12 (29) A record of a settlement agreement or litigation regarding medical services
- 13 involving any county hospital established under chapter 34-8 or any municipal
- 14 hospital established under chapter 34-9.