

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1026, As Amended

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 9, IDAHO CODE, BY THE  
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 9-349, IDAHO CODE, TO PROHIBIT THE IMPROPER  
3 OR UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OR REMOVAL OF PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE STATE AND/OR  
4 TERRITORY OF IDAHO, TO DEFINE A TERM, TO CLARIFY CERTAIN REFERENCES, TO  
5 PROVIDE FOR WRITTEN NOTICE AND DEMAND, TO PROVIDE FOR COURT PETITION,  
6 TO PROVIDE FOR COURT ORDERS, TO PROVIDE FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COURT  
7 COSTS, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION TO APPLICATION OF SPECIFIED PROVISIONS  
8 AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTIFIED AND DATED COPIES OR DIGITAL IMAGES OF CER-  
9 TAIN RETURNED RECORDS; AMENDING SECTIONS 9-349, 9-349A AND 9-350, IDAHO  
10 CODE, TO REDESIGNATE THE SECTIONS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 40-1306C AND  
11 65-301, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE CORRECT CODE REFERENCES.  
12

13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

14 SECTION 1. That Chapter 3, Title 9, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
15 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
16 ignated as Section 9-349, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

17 9-349. REPLEVIN -- PUBLIC RECORDS -- IMPROPER OR UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OR  
18 REMOVAL. (1) Public records of the state and/or territory of Idaho are the  
19 property of the citizens of the state in perpetuity and they may not be im-  
20 properly or unlawfully transferred or removed from their proper custodian.  
21 For purposes of this section, the terms "public record" and "record," or plu-  
22 rals thereof, shall have the same meaning as "public record" as provided in  
23 section 9-337, Idaho Code.

24 (2) For the purpose of this section, where public records of a county,  
25 local district, or independent public body corporate and politic thereof are  
26 involved, all references to the state archivist also refer to any responsi-  
27 ble public official or records custodian and all references to the attorney  
28 general also refer to county prosecutors.

29 (3) Whenever the state archivist or their designee has reasonable  
30 grounds to believe that records belonging to the state, county, local dis-  
31 trict, or independent public body corporate and politic thereof, are in  
32 the possession of a person or entity not authorized by law to possess those  
33 records, and such possession was acquired on or after July 1, 2011, he or she  
34 may issue a written notice demanding that person or entity to do either of the  
35 following within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the notice:

36 (a) Return the records to the office of origin or the Idaho state  
37 archives; or

38 (b) Respond in writing and declare why the records do not belong to the  
39 state or a local agency.

40 (4) The notice and demand shall identify the records claimed to belong  
41 to the state or local agency with reasonable specificity, and shall specify  
42 that the state archivist may undertake legal action to recover the records if

1 the person or entity fails to respond in writing within the required time or  
2 does not adequately demonstrate that the records do not belong to the state  
3 or a local agency.

4 (5) If a person or entity that receives a written notice and demand from  
5 the state archivist pursuant to this chapter fails to deliver the described  
6 records, fails to respond to the notice and demand within the required time,  
7 or does not adequately demonstrate that the records do not belong to the  
8 state or a local agency, the state archivist may ask the attorney general to  
9 petition a court of competent jurisdiction for an order requiring the return  
10 of the records.

11 (6) The court may issue any order necessary to protect the records from  
12 destruction, alteration, transfer, conveyance or alienation by the person  
13 or entity in possession of the records, and may order that the records be sur-  
14 rendered into the custody of the state archivist pending the court's deci-  
15 sion on the petition.

16 (7) After a hearing, and upon a finding that the specified records are  
17 in the possession of a person or entity not authorized by law to possess  
18 the records, the court shall order the records to be delivered to the state  
19 archivist or other official designated by the court.

20 (8) If the attorney general recovers a record under this section, the  
21 court may award attorney's fees and court costs.

22 (9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any public  
23 record that is in the custody of an organization or institution shall not be  
24 subject to the provisions of this section provided:

25 (a) That professional standards recognized by the society of American  
26 archivists for the management and preservation of historical records  
27 are maintained; and

28 (b) Such records are accessible to the public in a manner consistent  
29 with sections 9-337 through 9-352, inclusive, Idaho Code.

30 (10) When a record is returned pursuant to subsection (3)(a) of this  
31 section, upon the request of the person, organization or institution that  
32 returned the record, the record custodian that receives the record shall  
33 issue to that person, organization or institution a copy or digital image  
34 of the record which shall be certified as a true copy of the record that was  
35 returned to the state or local agency, and dated on the same day the record  
36 was returned.

37 SECTION 2. That Section 9-349, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
38 amended to read as follows:

39 9-34950. CONFIDENTIALITY LANGUAGE REQUIRED IN THIS CHAPTER. On and  
40 after January 1, 1996, any statute which is added to the Idaho Code and pro-  
41 vides for the confidentiality or closure of any public record or class of  
42 public records shall be placed in this chapter. Any statute which is added  
43 to the Idaho Code on and after January 1, 1996, and which provides for con-  
44 fidentiality or closure of a public record or class of public records and is  
45 located at a place other than this chapter shall be null, void and of no force  
46 and effect regarding the confidentiality or closure of the public record and  
47 such public record shall be open and available to the public for inspection  
48 as provided in this chapter.

1 SECTION 3. That Section 9-349A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 9-349A~~51~~<sup>51</sup>. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby de-  
4 clared to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application  
5 of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any  
6 reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of remaining portions  
7 of this act.

8 SECTION 4. That Section 9-350, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 9-350~~2~~. IDAHO CODE IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF IDAHO. (1) The Idaho  
11 Code is the property of the state of Idaho, and the state of Idaho and the tax-  
12 payers shall be deemed to have a copyright on the Idaho Code. If a person re-  
13 produces or distributes the Idaho Code for the purpose of direct or indirect  
14 commercial advantage, the person shall owe to the Idaho code commission, as  
15 the agent of the state of Idaho, a royalty fee in addition to the fee charged  
16 for copying the Idaho Code. Any person who reproduces or distributes the  
17 Idaho Code in violation of the provisions of this section, shall be deemed  
18 to be an infringer of the state of Idaho's copyright. The Idaho code commis-  
19 sion, through the office of the attorney general, is entitled to institute  
20 an action for any infringement of that particular right committed while the  
21 Idaho code commission or its designated agent has custody of the Idaho Code.

22 (2) A court having jurisdiction of a civil action arising under this  
23 section may grant such relief as it deems appropriate. At any time while an  
24 action under this section is pending, the court may order the impounding, on  
25 such terms as it deems reasonable, of all copies claimed to have been made or  
26 used in violation of the Idaho code commission's copyright pursuant to this  
27 section.

28 (3) An infringer of the state of Idaho's copyright pursuant to this sec-  
29 tion is liable for any profits the infringer has incurred by obtaining the  
30 Idaho Code for commercial purposes or is liable for statutory damages as pro-  
31 vided in subsection (4) of this section.

32 (4) The Idaho code commission, as agent of the copyright owner, may  
33 elect, at any time before final judgment is rendered, to recover, instead of  
34 actual damages and profits, an award of statutory damages for all infringe-  
35 ments involved in the action, with respect to the Idaho Code for which any  
36 one (1) infringer is liable individually, or for which any two (2) or more  
37 infringers are liable jointly and severally, in a sum of not less than two  
38 hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), as  
39 the court considers just.

40 (5) In any civil action under this section, the court may allow the re-  
41 covery of full costs by or against any party and may also award reasonable at-  
42 torney's fees to the prevailing party as part of the costs.

43 (6) The Idaho code commission is hereby authorized to license and  
44 charge fees for the use of the Idaho Code. The Idaho code commission may  
45 grant a license for the use of the Idaho Code to a public agency in the state  
46 and waive all or a portion of the fees. All fees recovered by the Idaho code  
47 commission shall be deposited in the general account.

1 SECTION 5. That Section 40-1306C, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 40-1306C. HIGHWAY DISTRICT RECORDS -- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. All records  
4 of the highway district are open to the public, except as provided by law.  
5 With respect to highway district records, sections 9-337 through 9-349A51,  
6 Idaho Code, provide definitions, procedure for the right to examine, re-  
7 quests for the examination, records exempt from disclosure, copy fees,  
8 separation of exempt and nonexempt records, enforcement rights, court or-  
9 ders and penalties.

10 SECTION 6. That Section 65-301, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 65-301. PERFORMANCE WITHOUT FEE -- SERVICES ENUMERATED. (1) Any  
13 state, county, city or public officer, or board, or body, acting in his or her  
14 or its official capacity on behalf of the state, county, or city, including  
15 notaries public, shall not collect, demand or receive any fee or compensa-  
16 tion for recording or indexing the discharge papers of any male or female  
17 veteran who had active service in any war or conflict officially engaged  
18 in by the government of the United States; or for issuing certified copies  
19 thereof, or for any service whatever rendered by any such officer or offi-  
20 cers, in the matter of a pension claim, application, affidavit, voucher, or  
21 in the matter of any claim to be presented to the United States department of  
22 veterans affairs or for the purposes of securing any benefits under acts of  
23 congress providing pension benefits for honorably discharged veterans of  
24 any war, and all acts or parts of acts amendatory thereto, or for furnishing  
25 a certified copy of the public record of a marriage, death, birth, divorce,  
26 deed of trust, mortgage, or property assessment, or making a reasonable  
27 search for the same, wherein the same is to be used in a claim for pension,  
28 or a claim for allotment, allowance, compensation, insurance, automatic  
29 insurance, or otherwise provided for by any and all legislation by congress  
30 providing pension benefits for honorably discharged veterans of any war.

31 (2) Any veteran wishing to record his or her discharge papers may do  
32 so with personal identifying information such as date of birth, social se-  
33 curity number, home address(es), blood type and other personal identifying  
34 information redacted from the document. The name of the veteran may not be  
35 redacted from the document.

36 (3) Any veteran or surviving spouse of any veteran of the United States  
37 armed forces or his or her surviving spouse, attorney, personal representa-  
38 tive, executor or court appointed guardian has the right to request that a  
39 county recorder remove from the official records any of the following forms  
40 recorded before, on or after July 1, 2003, by or on behalf of the requesting  
41 veteran: DD-214; DD-215; WD AGO 53; WD AGO 55; WD AGO 53-55; NAVMC 78-PD; and  
42 NAVPERS 553. The request must specify the identification page number of the  
43 form to be removed. The request shall be made in person and with appropriate  
44 identification to allow determination of identity. The county recorder has  
45 no duty to inquire beyond the requestor to verify the identity of the person  
46 requesting removal. No fee shall be charged for the removal. Any paper and  
47 reasonably retrievable electronic likeness, the removal of which will not  
48 affect other recorded documents, shall be removed from the record.

1           (4) No DD-214, DD-215, WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVMC 78-PD,  
2 and NAVPERS 553, which is recorded at the request of any veteran of the United  
3 States armed forces or his or her surviving spouse, attorney, personal rep-  
4 resentative, executor or court appointed guardian shall be a public record  
5 subject to release by the provisions of sections 9-337 through 9-350~~2~~, Idaho  
6 Code, without the express written consent of one (1) of the above enumerated  
7 individuals.

8           (5) Nothing in this section shall create or permit any cause of action  
9 against a county, county employee or the state of Idaho based upon harm  
10 caused by information released from the records of the county.