

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S2/1/21 S2/9/21 S2/10/21 S2/24/21

2 93rd General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2021

SENATE BILL 195

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5 By: Senator D. Sullivan

6 By: Representative Womack

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF
10 1967; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC RECORDS";
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
16 OF 1967; AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF
17 "PUBLIC RECORDS".

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-19-102 is amended to read as follows:

23 25-19-102. Legislative findings and intent.

24 (a) It is vital in a democratic society that public business be
25 performed in an open and public manner so that the electors ~~shall be~~ are
26 advised of the performance of public officials and of the decisions that are
27 reached in public activity and in making public policy. Toward this end, this
28 chapter is adopted, making it possible for ~~them~~ electors or their
29 representatives to learn and to report fully the activities of their public
30 officials.

31 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) The purpose of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 is
33 transparency;

34 (2) Arkansas is proud to have a robust Freedom of Information
35 Act of 1967; and

36 (3) It is in the interest of the public to provide transparency



1 with respect to private organizations that support public entities without
2 the need for litigation.

3 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that records of a private
4 organization or private entity that performs a governmental function or
5 supports a governmental agency or public entity through activities such as
6 fundraising or the provision of labor be subject to the Freedom of
7 Information Act of 1967.

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9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-19-103(7), concerning the definitions to
10 be used in the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 (7)(A) "Public records" means writings, recorded sounds, films,
13 tapes, electronic or computer-based information, or data compilations in any
14 medium required by law to be kept or otherwise kept and that constitute a
15 record of the performance or lack of performance of official and related
16 functions that are or should be carried out by a public official or employee,
17 a governmental agency, a private entity as described in subdivision (7)(C) of
18 this section, or any other agency or improvement district that is wholly or
19 partially supported by public funds or expending public funds. All records
20 maintained in public offices or by public employees within the scope of their
21 employment ~~shall be~~ are presumed to be public records.

22 (B) "Public records" does not mean software acquired by
23 purchase, lease, or license~~+~~.

24 (C)(i) "Public records" includes writings, recorded
25 sounds, films, tapes, electronic or computer-based information, or data
26 compilations in any medium maintained by a private entity with the primary
27 purpose of providing a state governmental agency or state public entity
28 either with direct financial support of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or
29 more in the previous calendar year or with in-kind support equivalent to one
30 million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more in the previous calendar year.

31 (ii) "Public records" does not include:

32 (a) Writings, recorded sounds, films, tapes,
33 electronic or computer-based information, or data compilations in any medium
34 of a private entity that are not related to the direct support of a
35 governmental agency by the private entity; or

36 (b) The names and personal contact information

1 of persons making financial donations to a private entity as described in
2 subdivision (7)(C)(i) of this section;

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/s/D. Sullivan