

Bill No.: SF0057 **Effective:** July 1, 2019

LSO No.: **19LSO-0027**

Enrolled Act No.: SEA No. 0072

Chapter No.: 174

Prime Sponsor: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

Catch Title: **Public records.**

Subject: Public records.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This act amends the statutory provisions governing public records and creates the following short title for those provisions: "Public Records Act."
- The act:
 - Requires governmental entities to designate a public records person and requires applications for public records to be made to the designated public records person;
 - Requires the Department of Administration and Information to post contact information of the designated public records person on the Department's website;
 - Defines governmental entity to mean the state of Wyoming, an agency, political subdivision or state institution of Wyoming;
 - Requires the release of public records not later than thirty (30) calendar days from the date of acknowledged receipt of the request unless good cause exists, in which case the records shall be released on a specified date mutually agreed to by the applicant and the governmental entity;
 - Requires the Governor to designate an ombudsman to receive complaints for violations of the Public Records Act and authorizes applicants of public records to file a complaint with the ombudsman;
 - Authorizes the ombudsman to mediate disputes, prescribe timelines for release of records and waive fees charged by a governmental entity.

Comments:

- The act authorizes the Office of the Governor one (1) additional full-time permanent position for designation of an ombudsman and appropriates one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) from the general fund to the Office of the Governor to fund the position.

The above summary is not an official publication of the Wyoming Legislature and is not an official statement of legislative intent. While the Legislative Service Office endeavored to provide accurate information in this summary, it should not be relied upon as a comprehensive abstract of the bill.