

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB715
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Lawson
Date:	3/30/2023
Impact:	Potential Impact: Dependent on Number of Court Awards

Research Analysis

SB 715 requires any public body determining that a requested record is confidential to notify the requestor. The requestor is authorized by the measure to file a civil action. The court may order the release of the records if the court finds that the public interest in the records outweighs the privacy interest and may order any redactions necessary to protect innocent parties. The court may award a requesting party court costs and reasonable attorney fees if it finds that the denial of access to the records by the public body was unreasonable.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

SB 715 requires any public body that has determined a requested record be kept confidential notify the requestor and allows the requestor to file civil action for release of the records. This measure requires the court to award the requestor court costs and reasonable attorney fees if the denial of access to the records is deemed unreasonable. As the number of potential civil actions related to records requests is unable to be predicted, the current fiscal impact of this measure is currently unknown; however, there is potential fiscal impact if the court were to award the requestor court costs and attorney fees as a result of the civil action.

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.