

NEW SECTION. Sec. 25. There is appropriated from the medical aid fund to the department of labor and industries for the biennium ending June 30, 1983, the sum of one million dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the office of rehabilitation review established under this act.

There is also appropriated from the medical aid fund to the office of financial management for the biennium ending June 30, 1983, the sum of fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the performance audit to be conducted under section 7 of this act.

There is also appropriated from the medical aid fund to the board of industrial insurance appeals for the biennium ending June 30, 1983, the sum of one hundred forty-five thousand six hundred eighty-five dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the processing and completion of expedited appeals conducted under this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 26. Section 4 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. All other sections of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1983. The director of the department of labor and industries is authorized to immediately take such steps as are necessary to insure that this act is implemented on its effective dates.

Passed the House March 4, 1982.

Passed the Senate March 1, 1982.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1982.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1982.

CHAPTER 64

[Substitute House Bill No. 476]

LIBRARY RECORDS—PUBLIC DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION

AN ACT Relating to public records; and amending section 31, chapter 1, Laws of 1973 as last amended by section 13, chapter 314, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 42.17.310.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 31, chapter 1, Laws of 1973 as last amended by section 13, chapter 314, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 42.17.310 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The following shall be exempt from public inspection and copying:

(a) Personal information in any files maintained for students in public schools, patients or clients of public institutions or public health agencies, welfare recipients, prisoners, probationers, or parolees.

(b) Personal information in files maintained for employees, appointees, or elected officials of any public agency to the extent that disclosure would violate their right to privacy.

(c) Information required of any taxpayer in connection with the assessment or collection of any tax if the disclosure of the information to other persons would violate the taxpayer's right to privacy or would result in unfair competitive disadvantage to such taxpayer.

(d) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative records compiled by investigative, law enforcement, and penology agencies, and state agencies vested with the responsibility to discipline members of any profession, the nondisclosure of which is essential to effective law enforcement or for the protection of any person's right to privacy.

(e) Information revealing the identity of persons who file complaints with investigative, law enforcement, or penology agencies, other than the public disclosure commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical safety, or property: PROVIDED, That if at the time the complaint is filed the complainant indicates a desire for disclosure or nondisclosure, such desire shall govern: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That all complaints filed with the public disclosure commission about any elected official or candidate for public office must be made in writing and signed by the complainant under oath.

(f) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used to administer a license, employment, or academic examination.

(g) Except as provided by chapter 8.26 RCW, the contents of real estate appraisals, made for or by any agency relative to the acquisition or sale of property, until the project or prospective sale is abandoned or until such time as all of the property has been acquired or the property to which the sale appraisal relates is sold, but in no event shall disclosure be denied for more than three years after the appraisal.

(h) Valuable formulae, designs, drawings, and research data obtained by any agency within five years of the request for disclosure when disclosure would produce private gain and public loss.

(i) Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency memorandums in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated or recommended except that a specific record shall not be exempt when publicly cited by an agency in connection with any agency action.

(j) Records which are relevant to a controversy to which an agency is a party but which records would not be available to another party under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the superior courts.

(k) Records, maps, or other information identifying the location of archaeological sites in order to avoid the looting or depredation of such sites.

(l) Any library record, the primary purpose of which is to maintain control of library materials, or to gain access to information, which discloses or could be used to disclose the identity of a library user.

(2) The exemptions of this section shall be inapplicable to the extent that information, the disclosure of which would violate personal privacy or

vital governmental interests, can be deleted from the specific records sought. No exemption shall be construed to permit the nondisclosure of statistical information not descriptive of any readily identifiable person or persons.

(3) Inspection or copying of any specific records, exempt under the provisions of this section, may be permitted if the superior court in the county in which the record is maintained finds, after a hearing with notice thereof to every person in interest and the agency, that the exemption of such records, is clearly unnecessary to protect any individual's right of privacy or any vital governmental function.

(4) Agency responses refusing, in whole or in part, inspection of any public record shall include a statement of the specific exemption authorizing the withholding of the record (or part) and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.

Passed the House February 18, 1982.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1982.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1982.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1982.

CHAPTER 65

[House Bill No. 844]

PUBLIC DEBTS—COLLECTION BY COLLECTION AGENCIES

AN ACT Relating to the collection of public debts by collection agencies; and adding a new section to chapter 19.16 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 19.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

(1) Agencies, departments, taxing districts, political subdivisions of the state, counties, and incorporated cities may retain, by written contract, collection agencies licensed under this chapter for the purpose of collecting public debts owed by any person.

(2) No debt may be assigned to a collection agency unless (a) there has been an attempt to advise the debtor (i) of the existence of the debt and (ii) that the debt may be assigned to a collection agency for collection if the debt is not paid, and (b) at least thirty days have elapsed from the time the notice was sent.

(3) Collection agencies assigned debts under this section shall have only those remedies and powers which would be available to them as assignees of private creditors.