

MINUTES
Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee
(“Sunshine Committee”)
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom Webinar
John A. Cherberg Building – Conference Room ABC – Olympia, WA

June 2, 2026

Members Present: Vice Chair Thompson, Sen. Jeff Wilson, Rep. Larry Springer, Rep. Rob Chase, Jennifer Steele, Tricia Smith, Melissa Luck, Barbara Miner, David Zeeck

Members Absent: Sen. Shewmake and Zohaib Ali

Staff Present: Assistant Attorney General Lisa Petersen (Committee Counsel), Kelly Gonzalez, and Elizabeth Mateo (Committee Staff)

1) Call to Order

1.1 Introduction / Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Vice Chair Thompson called the meeting of the Sunshine Committee (Committee) to order at 9:02 a.m., June 2, 2026, remotely via Zoom Webinar and at the John A. Cherberg Building, Conference Room ABC, Olympia, WA.

Eight out of eleven members were present at the beginning of the meeting. A quorum was established.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda for June 2, 2026

Motion: To adopt the June 2, 2026 agenda. Moved by Sen. Wilson, seconded by Melissa Luck. Approved unanimously.

1.3 Review and Approve March 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt the March 24, 2026 meeting minutes. Moved by Jennifer Steele, seconded by Sen. Wilson. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson changed the order of agenda items due to David Zeeck’s absence at the beginning of the meeting.

2) New Business

2.6 Insurance & Financial Inst – [RCW 42.56.400\(16\)](#) [Thompson]; [RCW 42.56.400\(17\)](#) [Thompson]; [RCW 42.56.400\(18\)](#) [Thompson]; [RCW 42.56.400\(19\)](#) [Thompson]; [RCW 42.56.400\(20\)](#), [RCW 48.19.040\(5\)\(b\)](#) [Thompson]; [RCW 42.56.400\(21\)](#) [RCW 42.56.400\(22\)](#), [RCW 42.56.400\(23\)](#), [RCW 42.56.400\(24\)](#), [RCW 42.56.400\(25\)](#) [Thompson] (Nos. 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 on Schedule of Review)

Vice Chair Thompson shared that the first two exemptions relate to information collected by the OIC. He explained that RCW 42.56.400(16) is associated with life settlement contracts and anti-fraud plans submitted by life settlement providers or brokers and protects policyholder privacy. RCW 42.56.400(17) protects information obtained by the commissioner in their capacity as a receiver and proprietary business information. Vice Chair Thompson recommended that they both be retained.

Motion: To retain exemptions RCW 42.56.400(16) and RCW 42.56.400(17). Moved by Rep. Springer, seconded by Jennifer Steele. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson noted that RCW 42.56.400(18) relates to investment policy information. The OIC continues to rely on this exemption. It allows companies to present proprietary information for regulation by the OIC, and it protects them from competitors being able to see their proprietary information.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.400(18). Moved by Rep. Springer, seconded by Jennifer Steele. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson explained that RCW 42.56.400(19) pertains to a OIC reporting requirement to the legislature that expired on September 30, 2011. These records are past their retention and there are currently no records that exist.

Motion: To eliminate exemption RCW 42.56.400(19). Moved by David Zeeck, seconded by Jennifer Steele. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson shared that RCW 42.56.400(20) is a double exemption that relates to automobile usage actuarial data. Vice Chair Thompson feels that there is no public purpose for the release of this private data and said the OIC continues to rely on this exemption.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.400(20). Moved by Jennifer Steele, seconded by Melissa Luck. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson explained that RCW 42.56.400(21) refers to a requirement for school employee benefit contracts and data be reported to SEBB and HCA. It also refers to reports filed with the OIC under RCW 48.02.210, which was repealed in 2017. Any data OIC may still have has met retention and will be disposed of. OIC feels that this can be repealed as this is a dead statute.

David Zeeck joined the meeting at 9:16 am.

Motion: To eliminate exemption RCW 42.56.400(21). Moved by Jennifer Steele, seconded by David Zeeck. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson noted that RCW 42.56.400(22) relates to statistical reporting from the title insurance industry. OIC continues to use this exemption and is necessary to continue to use this exemption to have a free flow of information from title companies.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.400(22). Moved by Melissa Luck, seconded by Jennifer Steele. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson explained that RCW 42.56.400(23) is regarding carrier-provider contracts and compensation agreements filed with the OIC. This is proprietary and confidential information regarding how insurance companies are compensated and could lead to anti-competitive behavior.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.400(23). Moved by Jennifer Steele, seconded by David Zeeck. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson shared that RCW 42.56.400(24) relates to OIC's risk management and solvency assessments. The OIC continues to rely on this exemption. It is important to ensure that companies will provide complete contract documents that may be considered proprietary.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.400(24). Moved by Sen. Wilson, seconded by David Zeeck. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Thompson explained that RCW 42.56.400(25) This exemption relates to standard valuation and addresses actuarial opinions. The OIC continues to rely on this exemption. It is important to ensure companies will provide information and documents that may be considered proprietary, so they do not withhold information.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.400(25). Moved by Rep. Springer, seconded by Sen. Wilson. Approved unanimously.

2.1 Health Care – [RCW 42.56.360\(1\)\(f\)](#) [Zeeck]; [RCW 42.56.360\(1\)\(h\)](#) [Zeeck]; [RCW 42.56.360\(1\)\(k\)](#), [RCW 43.371.040](#) [Zeeck] (Nos. 179, 181, 182 on Schedule of Review)

David Zeeck explained that RCW 42.56.360(1)(f) relates to when there's a finding that a physician is liable and there's action against their license, that becomes a public record when there's a positive result of the investigation. When there's a negative result, either no finding or a dismissal of the complaint, it's not automatically released - but it is available through the public records request process to see any record of complaints. An example of this was provided by David Zeeck. He also added that he talked to both the Washington Coalition for Open Government and the Attorney General's Office and there are no complaints about this exemption. He recommends retaining this exemption.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.360(1)(f). Moved by Jennifer Steele, seconded by Melissa Luck. Approved unanimously.

David Zeeck explained that RCW 42.56.360(1)(h) relates to the Death with Dignity Act. If a person is facing a terminal illness and wants to take some steps to end their life. They need to get their physician first to make that finding that they have a terminal illness. They also must get a second opinion, an independent opinion to confirm the illness. The secondary confirming physician's information is being withheld. Dave Zeeck stated that he feels this follows HIPAA standards. No pushback was received from the Washington Coalition for Open Government and the Attorney General's Office said they're not aware of anybody pushing for this information. David Zeeck recommended retaining this exemption.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.360(1)(h). Moved by Rep. Springer, seconded by Barbara Miner. Approved unanimously.

David Zeeck explained that RCW 43.371.040 has to do with health claims information in Washington State. All health claims must be submitted to the state so the state can analyze the pattern of health claims across the state. This material is not subject to disclosure except in a very limited way. David Zeeck suggested retaining this exemption.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 43.371.040. Moved by Rep. Springer, seconded by Jennifer Steele. Approved unanimously.

2.2 Health Care Records – [RCW 7.68.080\(9\)\(a\)](#) [Zeeck] (No. 223 on Schedule of Review)

David Zeeck shared that RCW 7.68.080(9)(a) pertains to the Crime Victims Compensation Records Act. Sometimes the state pays medical care expenses for a crime victim. This data is retained by the state to audit expenditures and make sure funds are being expended appropriately but not otherwise available. David Zeeck checked with both the Washington Coalition for Open Government and the Attorney General's Office and was informed that this exemption does not seem to be a controversial matter. He recommends retaining this exemption.

Motion: To retain this exemption RCW 7.68.080(9)(a). Moved by Rep. Chase, seconded by Melissa Luck. Approved unanimously.

2.3 Motor Vehicles, Transportation – [RCW 46.12.635](#) [Rep. Chase] (No. 361 on Schedule of Review)

Rep Chase explained that RCW 46.12.635 is regarding the disclosure of names and addresses of individual vehicle and vessel owners' information. The RCW states that this information shall not be released by the county auditor or other agencies except under certain circumstances, including information on an owner who is a participant in the address confidentiality program. The Department of Licensing believes that the statute section is important for outlining how and when we can share data. In contrast, the Washington State Patrol does not see any significant operational concerns if the exemption was eliminated. Rep. Chase recommends retaining the exemption. Vice Chair Rowland Thompson shared some history of the bill and concurred with Representative Chase that this exemption be retained.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 46.12.635. Moved by Jennifer Steele, seconded by Rep. Springer. Approved unanimously.

2.4 Employment and Licensing – [RCW 42.56.250\(1\)\(m\)](#) [Rep. Springer] (No. 128 on Schedule of Review)

Rep. Springer explained that RCW 42.56.250(1)(m) exempts personal identifying information of employees who sign up for health care through the state HCA, such as, smoking history, address, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. Things we normally exempt from public disclosure for public employees. Rep. Springer recommended that it be retained.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.250(1)(m). Moved by Sen. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Chase. Approved unanimously.

2.5 Archaeological sites – [RCW 42.56.300\(3\)](#) [Rep. Springer] (No. 162 on Schedule of Review)

Rep. Springer shared that RCW 42.56.300(3) was unanimously passed in 2014 in response to the discovery of archaeological sites, often in conjunction with cultural sites of Washington tribes, and the damage done resulting from the identification of those sites. Rep. Springer recommended retaining the exemption. Vice Chair Rowland Thompson shared some history of the bill and concurred with Representative Springer that this exemption be retained.

Motion: To retain exemption RCW 42.56.300(3). Moved by Sen. Wilson, seconded by David Zeeck. Approved unanimously.

3) Public Comment

No general comment from the public was made.

4) Committee Business

4.2 Report on Committee Vacancies

Vice Chair Thompson reported that he is trying to find a Sunshine Committee Chair.

4.3 Priority List of Exemptions for Review

Vice Chair Thompson explained that the “Priority List of Exemptions for Review” included the next group of exemptions needing to be reviewed by the Committee and asked for volunteers.

5) Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 10:01 a.m.