

Memo

To: Sunshine Committee Members

From: Rowland Thompson, Vice Chair

Re: Exemptions for review: 127, 165, 173, 185, 198, 199, 200, 202, 210, 212, & 231 for Aug. 18, 2026 Sunshine Committee Meeting

Date: August 4, 2026

127: This exemption is actually for the employees of the State Investment Board and not the appointees for the SIB. RCW 42.56.250(1)(g) and RCW 43.33A.025 are regarding the statutorily required criminal background checks for finalists for employment at the SIB. It is full national background check including fingerprints. The information can be used only for the hiring decision, and nothing else. These job candidates are not public figures.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

165: Financial and commercial information submitted by individual or other entities to qualify for the purchase of Guaranteed Education Tuition credits (or other subsequent programs) is exempted from public disclosure by RCW 42.56.320(2). It is only the financial information, bank accounts, etc related to payment plans that is exempted. The identities of those purchasing the credits, those receiving the credits, and the number of credits is still available to the public.

I believe that this exemption should be retained

173: This exemption is RCW 42.56.240(13). It exempts GPS data that would reveal the residence of a criminal justice or law enforcement employee. Many employees have assigned vehicles with installed GPS devices that they use each day from their residence. State Troopers is an example. This exemption simply prohibits the release by WSP, or any other agency of the data that would show the residence. It does not exempt the GPS data of the duty shift of the vehicle from disclosure.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

185: The medical cannabis database containing the names and other personally identifying information of persons who qualify by prescription for medical cannabis are exempt from public disclosure. These are medical records.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

198: The terrorism exemption in RCW 42.56.420(1) is for documents that would reveal "specific and unique vulnerability assessments or specific and unique response or deployment plans" to plan for potential terrorist attacks that would "significantly disrupt the conduct of government

or of the general civilian population of the state or the United States and that manifest an extreme indifference to human life(.)" This is not every day crime and these are very specific records for very specific circumstances.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

199: The exemption in RCW 42.56.420(2) is the same sort of exemption for vulnerabilities of correctional facilities to withhold information that could be used to disrupt, cause escapes, or commit crimes at these correctional facilities. It does not protect records of responding to these incidents.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

200: The exemption in RCW 42.56.420(3) is for information collected for comprehensive safe school plans required under RCW 28A.320.125. This information catalogs vulnerabilities of school buildings and creates safety and evacuation plans in the event of school shootings and other disasters. It does not protect records of responding to these incidents.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

202: The exemption in RCW 42.56.240(5) is for security and safety plans developed for rail and buses with fixed guideway systems to prevent exploitation of vulnerabilities and to respond to emergencies. It does not protect records of the response to these incidents.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

210: The exemption in RCW 42.56.615 protects the data collected from individual households when a city conducts a census as a prerequisite to annexation. This information is shared with OFM and the destroyed. Larger figures from census tracts are available, as well as the total numbers if smaller than a census tract.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

212: The exemption in RCW 42.56.600 is a cross reference from RCW Chapter 7.07, which has a comprehensive system of eligibility for persons and organizations, disclosure rules, privilege, and responsibilities of the mediator for the recording of the ruling. The exemption is merely a cross reference to this mediation system with all of its checks and balances.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.

231: The exemption for concealed weapons applications in RCW 9.41.129 withholds the applications from the general public, but makes them available to law enforcement and criminal justice, and to all the parties in any court action requiring the surrendering of firearms.

I believe that this exemption should be retained.