



ENACTMENT NEWS

House Bill 341

Judges' personal information and public records redaction

On January 4, 2019, Governor Kasich signed House Bill 341 (Reps. Huffman and Cera) into law. The bill extends greater privacy protections over the personal and familial information of judges. It passed the Ohio House by a vote of 92-2 on January 31, 2018, and the Ohio Senate by a vote of 32-0 on December 19, 2018. It becomes effective 90 days after the governor signs it.

Residential and familial information of designated public service workers

The bill adds judges and magistrates to an existing list of public service workers whose "residential and familial information" is not considered a public record. Prior to passage, judges and magistrates were not included on this list. "Residential and familial information" is defined as any information that discloses the following:

- Information compiled from referral to or participation in an employee assistance program
- The person's social security number, residential telephone number, any bank account or credit card information, or any medical information
- The name of any beneficiary of employee benefits
- The identity and amount of any charitable or employment benefit deduction
- The name, residential address, name/address of employer, social security number, bank/debit/credit card information of a spouse, former spouse, or child of the person

Note that under the bill, the personal residential address of these designated public service workers are also not public records, with the exception of the addresses of judges and elected prosecuting attorneys, as they are elected officials, and their residency must be open to inspection and challenge under existing election law, unchanged by the bill.

Redaction of address/identifying information on public records/databases.

The bill permits judges and magistrates to request a public office, other than the county auditor (see separate process below), redact the judge's or magistrate's address from any record made available to the general public. The request must be made in writing on a form prescribed by the attorney general.

The bill permits judges, magistrates, and their spouses to request the county auditor to remove their names from any record made available to the public or on the internet, and to instead insert initials. The request must be made in the form of an affidavit requesting the replacement.