

By: Representatives Turner, Baker, Arnold,  
Boyd, Crawford, Scoggin, Willis, Eubanks,  
Hood

To: Accountability,  
Efficiency, Transparency;  
Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1205  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT A PUBLIC AGENCY SHALL NOT REQUIRE ANY  
2 ENTITY ORGANIZED UNDER SECTION 501(C) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE  
3 TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC AGENCY WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION; TO PROVIDE  
4 EXCEPTIONS TO THIS PROHIBITION; TO PROVIDE INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR  
5 VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 25-61-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
6 OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, the following words and  
10 phrases shall have the meanings as defined in this section unless  
11 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 (a) "Personal information" means any list, record,  
13 register, registry, roll, roster or other compilation of data of  
14 any kind that directly or indirectly identifies a person as a  
15 member, supporter or volunteer of, or donor of financial or  
16 nonfinancial support to, any entity organized under Section 501(c)  
17 of the Internal Revenue Code. Personal information does not  
18 include information reportable to the Secretary of State pursuant  
19 to Section 79-11-503(1)(b).



20 (b) "Public agency" means any state or local  
21 governmental unit, however designated, including, but not limited  
22 to, this state; any department, agency, office, commission, board,  
23 division or other entity of this state; any political subdivision  
24 of this state, including, but not limited to, a county, city,  
25 township, village, school district, community college district or  
26 any other local governmental unit, agency, authority, council,  
27 board or commission; or any state or local court, tribunal or  
28 other judicial or quasi-judicial body.

29 **SECTION 2.** (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, and  
30 subject to subsection (3), a public agency shall not do any of the  
31 following:

32 (a) Require any entity organized under Section 501(c)  
33 of the Internal Revenue Code to provide the public agency with  
34 personal information.

35 (b) If in the possession of personal information, a  
36 public agency shall not release, publicize or otherwise disclose  
37 that personal information without the express written permission  
38 of every identified member, supporter, volunteer or donor of the  
39 Section 501(c) entity as well as the Section 501(c) entity that  
40 received their membership, support, volunteer time or donations.

41 (c) Request or require a current or prospective  
42 contractor with the public agency to provide the public agency  
43 with a list of entities organized under Section 501(c) of the



44 Internal Revenue Code to which it has provided financial or  
45 nonfinancial support.

46 (2) Personal information shall be exempt from disclosure  
47 under the Mississippi Public Records Act.

48 (3) This act does not preclude either of the following:

49 (a) Any lawful warrant for personal information issued  
50 by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

51 (b) A lawful request for discovery of personal  
52 information in litigation if both of the following conditions are  
53 met:

54 (i) The requestor demonstrates a compelling need  
55 for the personal information by clear and convincing evidence; and

56 (ii) The requestor obtains a protective order  
57 barring disclosure of personal information to any person not  
58 directly involved in the litigation. As used in this  
59 subparagraph, "person" means an individual, partnership,  
60 corporation, association, governmental entity or other legal  
61 entity.

62 **SECTION 3.** (1) A person alleging a violation of this act  
63 may bring a civil action for appropriate injunctive relief.

64 (2) A court, in rendering a judgment in an action brought  
65 under this section, shall award all or a portion of the costs of  
66 litigation, including reasonable attorney fees and witness fees,  
67 to the complainant in the action if the court determines that the  
68 award is appropriate.



69           **SECTION 4.** A person who knowingly violates this act is  
70 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more  
71 than ninety (90) days or a fine of not more than One Thousand  
72 Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both.

73           **SECTION 5.** The requirements of this act shall not affect any  
74 provisions of the Mississippi Campaign Finance statutes provided  
75 in Sections 23-15-801 et seq.

76           **SECTION 6.** Section 25-61-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
77 amended as follows:

78           25-61-3. The following words shall have the meanings  
79 ascribed herein unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

80           (a) "Public body" shall mean any department, bureau,  
81 division, council, commission, committee, subcommittee, board,  
82 agency and any other entity of the state or a political  
83 subdivision thereof, and any municipal corporation and any other  
84 entity created by the Constitution or by law, executive order,  
85 ordinance or resolution. The term "public body" includes the  
86 governing board of a charter school authorized by the Mississippi  
87 Charter School Authorizer Board. Within the meaning of this  
88 chapter, the term "entity" shall not be construed to include  
89 individuals employed by a public body or any appointed or elected  
90 public official.

91           (b) "Public records" shall mean all books, records,  
92 papers, accounts, letters, maps, photographs, films, cards, tapes,  
93 recordings or reproductions thereof, and any other documentary



94 materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having  
95 been used, being in use, or prepared, possessed or retained for  
96 use in the conduct, transaction or performance of any business,  
97 transaction, work, duty or function of any public body, or  
98 required to be maintained by any public body. "Public records"  
99 shall not mean "personal information" as defined in Section 1 of  
100 this act.

101 (c) "Data processing software" means the programs and  
102 routines used to employ and control the capabilities of data  
103 processing hardware, including, but not limited to, operating  
104 systems, compilers, assemblers, utilities, library routines,  
105 maintenance routines, applications and computer networking  
106 programs.

107 (d) "Proprietary software" means data processing  
108 software that is obtained under a licensing agreement and is  
109 protected by copyright or trade secret laws.

110 (e) "Incident report" means a narrative description, if  
111 such narrative description exists and if such narrative  
112 description does not contain investigative information, of an  
113 alleged offense, and at a minimum shall include the name and  
114 identification of each person charged with and arrested for the  
115 alleged offense, the time, date and location of the alleged  
116 offense, and the property involved, to the extent this information  
117 is known.



118 (f) "Investigative report" means records of a law  
119 enforcement agency containing information beyond the scope of the  
120 matters contained in an incident report, and generally will  
121 include, but not be limited to, the following matters if beyond  
122 the scope of the matters contained in an incident report:

123 (i) Records that are compiled in the process of  
124 detecting and investigating any unlawful activity or alleged  
125 unlawful activity, the disclosure of which would harm the  
126 investigation which may include crime scene reports and  
127 demonstrative evidence;

128 (ii) Records that would reveal the identity of  
129 informants and/or witnesses;

130 (iii) Records that would prematurely release  
131 information that would impede the public body's enforcement,  
132 investigative or detection efforts;

133 (iv) Records that would disclose investigatory  
134 techniques and/or results of investigative techniques;

135 (v) Records that would deprive a person of a right  
136 to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

137 (vi) Records that would endanger the life or  
138 safety of a public official or law enforcement personnel, or  
139 confidential informants or witnesses;

140 (vii) Records pertaining to quality control or  
141 PEER review activities; or



142 (viii) Records that would impede or jeopardize a  
143 prosecutor's ability to prosecute the alleged offense.

144 (g) "Law enforcement agency" means a public body that  
145 performs as one (1) of its principal functions activities  
146 pertaining to the enforcement of criminal laws, the apprehension  
147 and investigation of criminal offenders, or the investigation of  
148 criminal activities.

149 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
150 and after July 1, 2019.

