

Attorney General's Public Records Law Reform Task Force
Revised Draft Policy Statement
8/31/2016

POLICY STATEMENT (NEW SECTION)

(1) The Legislative Assembly finds that encouraging access to public information about government and its actions ensures that people are informed and able to meaningfully participate in government. Access to information also enables Oregonians to ensure their public servants perform honestly, faithfully and competently.

(2) It is therefore the policy of the State of Oregon that:

(a) Public records are accessible to members of the public, with specific exemptions;

(b) Exemptions from public records disclosure requirements shall be construed narrowly to favor the people's right to know;

(c) Access to public records shall be timely; and

(d) When public bodies charge fees for records, those fees shall be reasonable and not burdensome. In deciding whether to charge a fee for access to public records, a public body shall consider the public interest served by disclosure and the requesters' ability to pay.

(3) In enacting laws that make public records exempt from the disclosure requirements of this chapter, the Legislative Assembly shall expressly identify the interests the exemption is necessary to serve and shall ensure the exemption is no broader than necessary.