PRIOR version (with summaries of comments from previous discussion inserted)

(1) It is the policy of the State of Oregon that [PREFACE THE WHOLE THING WITH THAT] public records are accessible to members of the public, with [FEW AND] narrow exceptions. Protecting the right of meaningful access to information about government activities insures that Oregonians are informed and able to meaningfully participate in their representative government. Access to information also enables Oregonians to insure [ENSURE] that their public servants perform honestly, faithfully and competently. The disclosure provisions of this chapter shall be interpreted liberally to implement this policy.

(2) Exceptions from the public disclosure requirements of this chapter shall be construed narrowly [IS THAT THE RIGHT WORD? OR NECESSARY? THOUGH COURT HAS USED IT FOR AWHILE NOW.] to favor the people’s right to know. The legislative assembly intends that any exemptions from public disclosure requirements serve one or more of the following interests:

(a) To protect the privacy and safety of private individuals;

(b) To protect the economic affairs of private individuals and entities [THIS IS TOO BROAD];

(c) To protect the public safety [INVESTIGATIVE STUFF MAYBE DOES NOT BELONG IN HERE];

(d) To enable the efficient [EFFECTIVE] administration of governmental programs, only if [THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN EFFECTIVE] administration would be significantly impaired [THWARTED? HARMED?] without the exemption [WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? CAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC? IS THIS ABOUT SPECIFIC TRANSACTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS? WHAT KINDS OF EXEMPTIONS CURRENTLY EXIST FOR THIS PURPOSE ANYWAY?].

(3) When enacting a law that will have the effect of exempting public records from mandatory public disclosure, the legislative assembly shall [FUTURE LEGISLATURES CAN’T BE BOUND] expressly identify the interests that the exemption is necessary to serve, and shall insure [ENSURE] that the exemption is no broader than necessary.

REVISED Version

(1) The Legislative Assembly finds that protecting the right of meaningful access to information about government activities insures that Oregonians are informed and are able to meaningfully participate in their representative government. Access to information also enables Oregonians to ensure that 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 exceptions. The disclosure provisions of this chapter shall be interpreted liberally to implement this policy.

(b) Exemptions from public disclosure are sometimes appropriate in order to serve one or more of the following interests:

(A) To protect the privacy and safety of individuals;

(B) To protect public safety;

(C) To protect private economic affairs from unreasonable intrusion;

(D) To protect the public interest in fair and effective governmental programs and transactions, only to the extent that interest would be thwarted without the exemption.

(c) Exceptions from public records disclosure requirements shall be construed narrowly to favor the people’s right to know.

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