

Dear Members of the Right to Know Advisory Committee, Bulk Records Subcommittee:

This e-mail responds to the recent request of the Bulk Records Subcommittee for “input from State and municipal government agencies and other interested parties regarding the application of the freedom of access laws to requests for bulk data.”

Since the terms remain undefined, for the purpose of the following comment:

- (1) The term “bulk data” refers to information originating from two or more records that is manually or electronically aggregated and contained in a single electronic record (typically, but not exclusively, a database); and
- (2) The term “bulk record” refers to a single electronic record containing a given set of bulk data.

COMMENT

During the most recent Legislative Session, at least seven bills were introduced that related in some way to personal information of individuals that – depending on the bill -- presently is (or likely is), or -- had the given bill been enacted -- would have been (or would have likely been) contained in a bulk record maintained by a public agency:

- LD 212, *An Act To Clarify and Amend Laws Pertaining to Licenses Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280039317>);
- LD 634, *An Act To Allow a Person To Designate Information Submitted for a Hunting or Fishing License as Confidential* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280039822>);
- LD 917, *An Act To Protect Licensing Information Provided to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and To Require a Review of Public Access to Other Personal Information* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280040305>);
- LD 1068, *An Act To Protect the Privacy of Maine Residents under the Driver's License Laws* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280040558>);
- LD 1143, *An Act To Require That Law Enforcement Officials Collect DNA Samples from Persons Arrested for Certain Crimes* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280040657>);
- LD 1167, *An Act To Protect the Privacy of Persons Involved in Reportable Motor Vehicle Accidents* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280040706>);

- LD 1317, *An Act Concerning Sex Offender Registry Information* (@ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280040919>)

That the seven bills cited above were considered by the Legislature this past Session evidences that the subcommittee ought to perhaps consider the issue of how (if at all) personal information of individuals that is contained in public agencies' bulk records should be safeguarded, so as to try to ensure that the personal privacy, creditworthiness, reputations, and/or safety of such individuals are not compromised as a result of the public dissemination of such records.

Thank you very much for considering this comment.

Respectfully, C

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