HOUSE BILL No. 2489

By Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT concerning legislative review of exceptions to open records; amending K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-5515 and 45-229 and 74-99b06 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-5515 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-5515. (a) A public adjuster shall maintain a complete record of each transaction as a public adjuster. The records required by this section shall include the following:

1. Name of the insured;
2. Date, location and amount of the loss;
3. Copy of the contract between the public adjuster and insured;
4. Name of the insurer and the amount, expiration date and number of each policy carried by the insured with respect to the loss;
5. An itemized statement of the insurer's recoveries;
6. An itemized statement of all compensation received by the public adjuster, from any source whatsoever, in connection with the loss;
7. A register of all moneys received, deposited, disbursed or withdrawn in connection with a transaction with an insured, including fees, transfers and disbursements from a trust account and all transactions concerning all interest-bearing accounts;
8. Name of public adjuster who executed the contract;
9. Name of the attorney representing the insured, if applicable, and the name of the claims representatives of the insurance company; and
10. Evidence of financial responsibility in the format prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) Records shall be maintained for at least five years after the termination of the transaction with an insured and shall be open to examination by the commissioner at all times.

(c) Records submitted to the commissioner in accordance with this section that contain information identified in writing as proprietary by the public adjuster shall be treated as confidential by the commissioner and shall not be open for inspection under the Kansas open records act.

(d) The provisions of subsection (c) shall expire on July 1, 2014, unless the legislature acts to reenact such provisions. The provisions of subsection (c) shall be reviewed by the legislature prior to July 1, 2014.
Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 45-229 is hereby amended to read as follows: 45-229. (a) It is the intent of the legislature that exceptions to disclosure under the open records act shall be created or maintained only if:

(1) The public record is of a sensitive or personal nature concerning individuals;
(2) the public record is necessary for the effective and efficient administration of a governmental program; or
(3) the public record affects confidential information.

The maintenance or creation of an exception to disclosure must be compelled as measured by these criteria. Further, the legislature finds that the public has a right to have access to public records unless the criteria in this section for restricting such access to a public record are met and the criteria are considered during legislative review in connection with the particular exception to disclosure to be significant enough to override the strong public policy of open government. To strengthen the policy of open government, the legislature shall consider the criteria in this section before enacting an exception to disclosure.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsections (g) and (h), any new exception to disclosure or substantial amendment of an existing exception shall expire on July 1 of the fifth year after enactment of the new exception or substantial amendment, unless the legislature acts to continue the exception. A law that enacts a new exception or substantially amends an existing exception shall state that the exception expires at the end of five years and that the exception shall be reviewed by the legislature before the scheduled date.

(c) For purposes of this section, an exception is substantially amended if the amendment expands the scope of the exception to include more records or information. An exception is not substantially amended if the amendment narrows the scope of the exception.

(d) This section is not intended to repeal an exception that has been amended following legislative review before the scheduled repeal of the exception if the exception is not substantially amended as a result of the review.

(e) In the year before the expiration of an exception, the revisor of statutes shall certify to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, by July 15, the language and statutory citation of each exception which will expire in the following year which meets the criteria of an exception as defined in this section. Any exception that is not identified and certified to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives is not subject to legislative review and shall not expire. If the revisor of statutes fails to certify an exception that the revisor subsequently determines should have been certified, the revisor shall...
include the exception in the following year's certification after that determination.

(f) "Exception" means any provision of law which creates an exception to disclosure or limits disclosure under the open records act pursuant to K.S.A. 45-221, and amendments thereto, or pursuant to any other provision of law.

(g) A provision of law which creates or amends an exception to disclosure under the open records law shall not be subject to review and expiration under this act if such provision:

(1) Is required by federal law;

(2) applies solely to the legislature or to the state court system;

(3) has been reviewed and continued in existence twice by the legislature; or

(4) has been reviewed and continued in existence by the legislature during the 2013 legislative session and thereafter.

(h) (1) The legislature shall review the exception before its scheduled expiration and consider as part of the review process the following:

(A) What specific records are affected by the exception;

(B) whom does the exception uniquely affect, as opposed to the general public;

(C) what is the identifiable public purpose or goal of the exception;

(D) whether the information contained in the records may be obtained readily by alternative means and how it may be obtained;

(2) an exception may be created or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose and may be no broader than is necessary to meet the public purpose it serves. An identifiable public purpose is served if the legislature finds that the purpose is sufficiently compelling to override the strong public policy of open government and cannot be accomplished without the exception and if the exception:

(A) Allows the effective and efficient administration of a governmental program, which administration would be significantly impaired without the exception;

(B) protects information of a sensitive personal nature concerning individuals, the release of which information would be defamatory to such individuals or cause unwarranted damage to the good name or reputation of such individuals or would jeopardize the safety of such individuals. Only information that would identify the individuals may be excepted under this paragraph; or

(C) protects information of a confidential nature concerning entities, including, but not limited to, a formula, pattern, device, combination of devices, or compilation of information which is used to protect or further a business advantage over those who do not know or use it, the disclosure of which information would injure the affected entity in the marketplace.
(3) Records made before the date of the expiration of an exception shall be subject to disclosure as otherwise provided by law. In deciding whether the records shall be made public, the legislature shall consider whether the damage or loss to persons or entities uniquely affected by the exception of the type specified in paragraph (2)(B) or (2)(C) of this subsection (h) would occur if the records were made public.

(i) (1) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as continued in existence in section 2 of chapter 126 of the 2005 Session Laws of Kansas and which have been reviewed and continued in existence twice by the legislature as provided in subsection (g) are hereby continued in existence:


(2) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as certified by the revisor of statutes to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives pursuant to subsection (e) during 2009 are hereby continued in existence until July 1, 2015, at which time such exceptions shall expire: 17-2036, 40-5301, subsections (a)(45) and (a)(46) of 45-221, 60-3351, 72-972a, 74-99d05 and 75-53,105.

(j) (1) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as continued in existence in section 1 of chapter 87 of the 2006 Session Laws of Kansas...
and which have been reviewed and continued in existence twice by the legislature as provided in subsection (g) are hereby continued in existence: 1-501, 9-1303, 12-4516a, 39-970, 65-525, 65-5117, 65-6016, 65-6017 and 74-7508.

(2) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as certified by the revisor of statutes to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives pursuant to subsection (e) during 2010 are hereby continued in existence until July 1, 2016, at which time such exceptions shall expire: 12-5358, 12-5611, 22-4906, 22-4909, 38-2310, 38-2311, 38-2326, 44-1132, 60-3333, 65-6154, 71-218, 75-457, 75-712c, 75-723 and 75-7c06.

(k) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as certified by the revisor of statutes to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives pursuant to subsection (e) during 2006, 2007 and 2008 and which have been reviewed during the 2014 legislative session and continued in existence by the legislature as provided in subsection (g) are hereby continued in existence until July 1, 2014, at which time such exceptions shall expire: 1-205, 2-2204, 8-240, 8-247, 8-255c, 8-1324, 8-1325, 12-17,150, 12-2001, 12-5332, 17-12a607, 38-1008, 38-2209, 40-5006, 40-5108, 41-2905, 41-2906, 44-706, 44-1518, subsections (a)(44), (45), (46) and (47) and (48) of 45-221, 50-6a11, 56-1a610, 56a-1204, 65-1,243, 65-16,104, 65-3239, 66-1233, 74-50,184, 74-8134, 74-99b06 74-99b06, 77-503a and 82a-2210.

(l) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as certified by the revisor of statutes to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives pursuant to subsection (e) during 2011 are hereby continued in existence until July 1, 2017, at which time such exceptions shall expire: 12-5711, 21-2511, 38-2313, 65-516, 74-8745, 74-8752, 74-8772 and 75-7427.

(m) Exceptions contained in the following statutes as certified by the revisor of statutes to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives pursuant to subsection (e) during 2012 and which have been reviewed during the 2013 legislative session and continued in existence by the legislature as provided in subsection (g) are hereby continued in existence: 12-5811, 40-222, 40-223j, 40-5007a, 40-5009a, 40-5012a, 65-1685, 65-1695, 65-2838a, 66-1251, 66-1805, 72-60c01, 75-712 and 75-5366.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 74-99b06 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-99b06. (a) All resolutions and orders of the board shall be recorded and authenticated by the signature of the secretary or any assistant secretary of the board. The book of resolutions, orders, minutes of open meetings, annual reports and annual financial statements of the authority shall be public records as defined by
K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto. All public records shall be subject to regular audit as provided in K.S.A. 46-1106, and amendments thereto.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto, to the contrary, the following records of the authority shall not be subject to the provisions of the Kansas open records act, when in the opinion of the board, the disclosure of the information in the records would be harmful to the competitive position of the authority:

(A) Proprietary information gathered by or in the possession of the authority from third parties pursuant to a promise of confidentiality;
(B) contract cost estimates prepared for confidential use in awarding contracts for research development, construction, renovation, commercialization or the purchase of goods or services; and
(C) data, records or information of a proprietary nature produced or collected by or for the authority, its employees, officers or members of its board; financial statements not publicly available that may be filed with the authority from third parties; the identity, accounts or account status of any customer of the authority; consulting or other reports paid for by the authority to assist the authority in connection with its strategic planning and goals; and the determination of marketing and operational strategies where disclosure of such strategies would be harmful to the competitive position of the authority.

(2) The provisions of this subsection shall expire on July 1, 2009. Prior to such date the legislature shall review the provisions of this subsection.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the authority may claim the benefit of any other exemption to the Kansas open records act listed in K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-5515 and 45-229 and 74-99b06 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.