

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 289

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

PUBLIC RECORDS. Provides for confidentiality of certain information in public records requests for universities. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 44:4(65) through (67), relative to public records; to provide for exemptions

3 to the public records law for certain university records; to provide for confidentiality

4 of applicants for certain executive-level university positions; to provide for the

5 privacy of university donors; to provide for the confidentiality of research and

6 proprietary information at universities; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 44:4(65) through (67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §4. Exemptions

10 This Chapter shall not apply:

11 * * *

12 **(65) To any record, including resumes, applications, and identifying**

13 **information, of an applicant for an executive-level or high-impact position at a**

14 **public postsecondary education institution, including but not limited to**

15 **presidents, chancellors, deans, and athletic coaches. This exception shall expire**

16 **once a "finalist" for the position is officially named by the governing board, at**

17 **which point the records of the finalist and anyone else that applied for the**

1 position shall become public.

2 (66) To any record that identifies or could lead to the identification of a
3 private donor or prospective donor to a public postsecondary education
4 institution or its affiliated foundation, unless the donor provides written consent
5 for disclosure. This shall not exempt records concerning the amount of a
6 donation to a postsecondary education institution or its affiliated foundation or
7 the specific use of donated public funds.

8 (67) To records maintained by a public postsecondary education
9 institution that contain proprietary research, unpublished data, grant
10 applications, or information related to intellectual property (IP) and industry
11 partnerships, where disclosure would reasonably result in a competitive
12 disadvantage to the institution or its partners or could result in research being
13 taken or used by a competitor. Once the research is published in a peer-
14 reviewed journal, a patent is officially granted and published by the United
15 States Patent and Trademark Office, the grant period has been completed, or
16 the institution determines the information no longer meets the criteria to
17 remain private; this exception shall expire and the records shall become public.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 289 Original

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Abraham

Present law provides exemptions to the Louisiana Public Records Law.

Proposed law creates an exemption for applicants to executive or high level positions at public postsecondary education institutions.

Proposed law provides a sunset period for those records once a finalist for the job has been named.

Proposed law creates an exemption for records that would identify a donor to a public postsecondary institution.

Proposed law provides an exception to the exemption that does not keep private the amount of money donated or where the donation is being used by the institution.

Proposed law provides an exemption for records maintained by a public postsecondary

education institution that contain proprietary research, unpublished data, grant applications, or information related to intellectual property (IP) and industry partnerships.

Proposed law provides sunset provisions for various types of records in different situations.

Effective on August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 44.4(65)-(67))