

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 596 (SB 289)

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

Existing law (Public Records Law) generally provides that any person of the age of majority may inspect, copy, or reproduce any public record, and places certain duties on the custodian of a public record to make such records available upon request.

New law exempts the following records of public postsecondary education institutions from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Law:

- (1) Applications, resumes, or the personally identifiable information of an applicant for president, chancellor, senior vice chancellor, or athletic coach at the public postsecondary education institution, unless the applicant has authorized the disclosure of such records and information. This exemption expires once an applicant is approved for the position by the governing board, at which time the records of the top three finalists, including the approved applicant, become public. The exemption continues for any applicant that is not among the top three finalists for the position, unless the applicant authorized the disclosure of such records and information.
- (2) Any portion of a record that identifies the name of a donor to the public postsecondary education institution or its affiliated foundation if the donor has requested that his name remain confidential.
- (3) Records that contain proprietary, unpublished, or incomplete academic research and unsubmitted grant applications. This exception expires upon the disclosure, publication, public announcement, or public knowledge of the research or the grant application, upon the submission of the related grant application, or upon the grant or denial of related intellectual property rights.
- (4) Records of negotiations for industry partnerships with the institution if the custodian of records determines that disclosure of the information would have a detrimental effect on the negotiations. Requires disclosure of the custodian's determination in response to a request for the records. No information shall remain confidential for more than twelve months from the date of the custodian's determination that disclosure would be detrimental; however, if the negotiation remains active and the custodian determines that the disclosure of the information would be detrimental to the negotiations, then the information remains confidential while the negotiation remains active, not to exceed an additional six months.

New law retains existing law (R.S. 44:4(56)) which provides for the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information of any person who reports a violation of a student code of conduct or other policy intended for the safety of students or employees of a postsecondary education institution, personally identifiable information of any reported witness to the reported violation, and, if the reported violation involves violence or abuse, personally identifiable information of any person who may be a victim of violence or abuse directly related to the reported violation.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 44:3.7; repeals R.S. 44:4(56))