

Committee on Criminal Justice

CS/HB 1327 — Pub. Rec./Investigative Genetic Genealogy Information and Materials

by Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Rep. Anderson and others (CS/SB 1402 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senator Martin)

The bill provides that investigative genetic genealogy information and materials are made confidential and exempt from public record inspection and copying requirements.

The bill provides that a law enforcement agency may disclose such confidential and exempt information in furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities. Additionally, a law enforcement agency must disclose such confidential and exempt information pursuant to a court order in furtherance of a criminal prosecution.

The exemption must be given retroactive application and must apply to all investigative genetic genealogy materials held by an agency before, on, or after July 1, 2023. Technical terms are defined in the bill.

The exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

The bill provides a statement of public necessity as required by the State Constitution.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 38-1; House 112-0