1	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION
2	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
3	1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)
4	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5	FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2730 By: Menz and Rosecrants of the House
6	and
7	Kirt of the Senate
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10	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
11	An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Records Act;
12	amending 51 O.S. 2021, Section 24A.5, which relates to inspection and copying of records; requiring
13	certain written notice when records request cannot be completed within a specified time; and providing an
14	effective date.
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16	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
17	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2021, Section 24A.5, is
18	amended to read as follows:
19	Section 24A.5 All records of public bodies and public officials
20	shall be open to any person for inspection, copying, or mechanical
21	reproduction during regular business hours; provided:
22	1. The Oklahoma Open Records Act, Sections 24A.1 through 24A.30
23	24A.33 of this title, does not apply to records specifically
24	required by law to be kept confidential including:

- a. records protected by a state evidentiary privilege
 such as the attorney-client privilege, the work
 product immunity from discovery and the identity of
 informer privileges,
- b. records of what transpired during meetings of a public
 body lawfully closed to the public such as executive
 sessions authorized under the Oklahoma Open Meeting
 Act,
- 9 c. personal information within driver records as defined 10 by the Driver's Privacy Protection Act, 18 United 11 States Code, Sections 2721 through 2725,
- d. information in the files of the Board of Medicolegal
 Investigations obtained pursuant to Sections 940 and
 941 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes that may be
 hearsay, preliminary unsubstantiated investigation related findings, or confidential medical information,
 or
- e. any test forms, question banks and answer keys
 developed for state licensure examinations, but
 specifically excluding test preparation materials or
 study guides;

22 2. All Social Security numbers included in a record may be
23 confidential regardless of the person's status as a public employee

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or private individual and may be redacted or deleted prior to
 release of the record by the public body;

3 3. Any reasonably segregable portion of a record containing 4 exempt material shall be provided after deletion of the exempt 5 portions; provided however, the Department of Public Safety shall 6 not be required to assemble for the requesting person specific 7 information, in any format, from driving records relating to any 8 person whose name and date of birth or whose driver license number 9 is not furnished by the requesting person.

10 The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall not be required 11 to assemble for the requesting person any criminal history records 12 relating to persons whose names, dates of birth, and other 13 identifying information required by the Oklahoma State Bureau of 14 Investigation pursuant to administrative rule are not furnished by 15 the requesting person;

16 Any request for a record which contains individual records 4. 17 of persons, and the cost of copying, reproducing or certifying each 18 individual record is otherwise prescribed by state law, the cost may 19 be assessed for each individual record, or portion thereof requested 20 as prescribed by state law. Otherwise, a public body may charge a 21 fee only for recovery of the reasonable, direct costs of record 22 copying, or mechanical reproduction. Notwithstanding any state or 23 local provision to the contrary, in no instance shall the record 24 copying fee exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for records

1 having the dimensions of eight and one-half (8 1/2) by fourteen (14) 2 inches or smaller, or a maximum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per copied 3 page for a certified copy. However, if the request:

is solely for commercial purpose, or

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 would clearly cause excessive disruption of the essential functions of the public body,

7 then the public body may charge a reasonable fee to recover the direct cost of record search and copying; however, publication in a 8 9 newspaper or broadcast by news media for news purposes shall not 10 constitute a resale or use of a record for trade or commercial 11 purpose and charges for providing copies of electronic data to the 12 news media for a news purpose shall not exceed the direct cost of 13 making the copy. The fee charged by the Department of Public Safety 14 for a copy in a computerized format of a record of the Department 15 shall not exceed the direct cost of making the copy unless the fee 16 for the record is otherwise set by law.

Any public body establishing fees under this act shall post a written schedule of the fees at its principal office and with the county clerk.

In no case shall a search fee be charged when the release of records is in the public interest, including, but not limited to, release to the news media, scholars, authors and taxpayers seeking to determine whether those entrusted with the affairs of the

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government are honestly, faithfully, and competently performing
 their duties as public servants.

The fees shall not be used for the purpose of discouraging requests for information or as obstacles to disclosure of requested information;

5. The land description tract index of all recorded instruments
concerning real property required to be kept by the county clerk of
any county shall be available for inspection or copying in
accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Records Act;
provided, however, the index shall not be copied or mechanically
reproduced for the purpose of sale of the information;

12 6. A public body must provide prompt, reasonable access to its 13 records but may establish reasonable procedures which protect the 14 integrity and organization of its records and to prevent excessive 15 disruptions of its essential functions. A delay in providing access 16 to records shall be limited solely to the time required for 17 preparing the requested documents and the avoidance of excessive 18 disruptions of the public body's essential functions. If a records 19 request cannot be completed within ten (10) business days of the 20 request, a person designated pursuant to paragraph 7 of this section 21 shall provide written notice to the requestor indicating the reason 22 for the delay and specifying a date within a reasonable time when 23 the information requested will be available for inspection or 24 duplication. In no event may production of a current request for

records be unreasonably delayed until after completion of a prior records request that will take substantially longer than the current request. Any public body which makes the requested records available on the Internet shall meet the obligation of providing prompt, reasonable access to its records as required by this paragraph; and

7 7. A public body shall designate certain persons who are
8 authorized to release records of the public body for inspection,
9 copying, or mechanical reproduction. At least one person shall be
10 available at all times to release records during the regular
11 business hours of the public body.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, dated 03/01/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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HB2730 HFLR BOLD FACE denotes Committee Amendments.