



HOUSE BILL 1080: Guilford Co. Animal Control Records.

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government I	Date:	June 5, 2018
Introduced by:	Reps. Hardister, Blust, Brockman, Quick	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 1080 would declare personal identifying information held by the Guilford County animal services agency not to be public records, but allow the county to disclose at its' discretion, effective when it becomes law.*

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 132 of the General Statutes governs public records and makes all documents of a public entity that are not specifically excluded a public record.

Public records are "all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data-processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions."

Every custodian of public records is required to allow the public record in their custody to be inspected and examined at reasonable times and under reasonable supervision, as well as furnish copies thereof upon payment of fees. No person requesting to inspect, examine, or copy public records may be required to disclose the purpose or motive of the request.

BILL ANALYSIS: For Guilford County only, the bill would exempt from public records any personal identifying information held by the county animal services agency related to either of the following individuals:

- An individual who voluntarily surrendered ownership of an animal to an animal shelter.
- An individual who adopted a shelter animal.
- An individual to whom a shelter animal has been placed through a foster program.

Remaining a public record would be the identity of any animal rescue organization with whom the county places an animal.

The county, in its' discretion, could disclose information that is not a public record.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

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