

HOUSE BILL 1062: Beaufort County/Animal Services Records.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: House State and Local Government. If **Date**: May 26, 2020

favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and

Operations of the House

Introduced by: Rep. Kidwell Prepared by: Howard Marsilio
Analysis of: First Edition Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 1062 would add Beaufort County to the list of counties that declare personally identifiable information held by animal services agencies not to be public records, but allow those counties to disclose that information at their discretion.

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.

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.

Personally identifiable information held by a county animal services agency that relates to any of the following persons is not a public record in Burke, Guilford, and Pitt counties.

- An individual who voluntarily surrendered ownership of an animal to an animal shelter.
- An individual who adopted a shelter animal or 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 counties listed above, in their discretion, could disclose personally identifiable information related to the county animal services agency that is not a public record.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 1062 would add Beaufort County to the list of counties that exempt from public records law any personally identifiable information held by the county animal services agency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law.

