



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

HOUSE BILL 923: Protect Personal Info/Judicial Personnel.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 3. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Chesser, Schietzelt, Alston	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H923-CSST-7		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The proposed committee substitute for House Bill 923 would allow judicial officials to request, and obtain, the removal of certain personal identifying information posted online by a public agency.*

CURRENT LAW:

With respect to records 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, those documents are a public record and available for inspection by any member of the public. (G.S. 132-1, G.S. 132-6.) There are some exceptions to this general standard, such as criminal investigations (G.S. 132-1.4), trade secrets (G.S. 132-1.2), electronically captured signatures and other personal identifying information (G.S. 132-1.2), tax information (G.S. 105-259), lists of individuals receiving public assistance (G.S. 108A-80), patient medical information (G.S. 130A-12), and others.

A public agency may satisfy the requirements for inspection and examination of public records in computer databases by making the public records in the computer databases available online in a format that allows a person to view the public records and print or save the public records to obtain a copy.

The collection of social security numbers by State and local agencies is prohibited except in certain situations. Except for recorded documents and court records, social security numbers must be segregated from other public record information, and the release of social security numbers to the general public is prohibited. Clerks of court and registers of deeds are not required to purge existing databases of identifying information but are required to redact that information when specifically requested by the person whose identifying information is contained on a public record under the control of the clerk of superior court or register of deed.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would require all public agencies to establish a process by which a judicial official could request, in writing, the removal of any personal identifying information from a website, online computer database, or geographic information system. Once properly submitted, the public agency would be required to remove the personal identifying information, and keep that personal identifying information from the website, online computer database, or geographic information system unless a written revocation from the judicial official is received.

Personal identifying information would be any of the following: physical residential address; personal phone number; Social security or employer taxpayer identification numbers; drivers license, State

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

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identification card, or passport numbers; checking account numbers; savings account numbers; credit card numbers; debit card numbers; PIN codes; electronic identification numbers, electronic mail names or addresses, Internet account numbers, or Internet identification names; digital signatures; any other numbers or information that can be used to access a person's financial resources; biometric data; fingerprints; passwords; parent's legal surname prior to marriage; birth certificates; and marriage certificates.

Public agencies complying with access to public records via online computer databases would be required to remove the personal identifying information from the online computer database, but the personal identifying information would remain a public record in the nondigital medium. The same would be true for any geographic information system developed and operated by a county or city.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027.