
SENATE BILL 5787

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Walsh, Hunt, and Saldaña

Read first time 02/01/19. Referred to Committee on State Government,
Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to hours of availability for inspection and
2 copying of public records; and amending RCW 42.56.090.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.56.090 and 2009 c 428 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Public records shall be available for inspection and copying
7 during the customary office hours of the agency, the office of the
8 secretary of the senate, and the office of the chief clerk of the
9 house of representatives for a minimum of thirty hours per week,
10 except weeks that include state legal holidays, unless the person
11 making the request and the agency, the office of the secretary of the
12 senate, or the office of the chief clerk of the house of
13 representatives or its representative agree on a different time.
14 Customary business hours must be posted on the agency or office's web
15 site and made known by other means designed to provide the public
16 with notice.

17 (2) For cities, towns, and special purpose districts that
18 customarily maintain office hours for less than thirty hours per
19 week:

20 (a) The city, town, or special purpose district is not required
21 to maintain greater office hours by this chapter, but must post at

1 its headquarters and on its web site, if the city, town, or special
2 purpose district maintains a web site, directions on how to contact
3 city, town, or special purpose district personnel to inspect or copy
4 public records.

5 (b) A public records request is considered made only when:

6 (i) Contact with personnel of the city, town, or special purpose
7 district results in such personnel actually knowing that a request to
8 inspect or copy public records is being made; or

9 (ii) Proof that delivery of a properly addressed certified
10 letter, return receipt requested, was attempted, whether or not the
11 letter is accepted.

12 (c) The city, town, or special purpose district must respond
13 within the time requirements of RCW 42.56.520. For purposes of such
14 time requirements, a public records request is considered received
15 the sooner of:

16 (i) The date of the city, town, or special purpose district's
17 next regularly scheduled meeting; or

18 (ii) Thirty days from the date the request is made.

19 (d) The city, town, or special purpose district must include and
20 respond promptly to a request to inspect or copy public records in
21 the business conducted at the next regularly scheduled meeting
22 subsequent to the request being made if a response to the request has
23 not been made prior to the meeting.

24 (e) If a city, town, or special purpose district does not have
25 personnel, it shall designate a member of the governing board as the
26 public records officer responsible for meeting the requirements of
27 this chapter.

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