

**45-407. Public access or restriction of records; state archivist access to restricted records; disclosure prohibited; misdemeanor.** (a) All government records deposited subsequent to adoption of this act in the state archives shall remain subject to any current state or federal statutes, or administrative regulations authorized by statute, which require public access or restrict public access to the records while retained by the state or local agency or the branch of state government making the deposit. The state or local agency or the branch of state government making the deposit may require continued application to government records deposited in the state archives of any discretionary restrictions on public access which are authorized by statute or by administrative regulations authorized by statute, if such requirements are specified at the time of the deposit. No fees shall be charged for the examination of government records held by the state archives.

(b) Any discretionary restrictions placed on public access to government records deposited in the state archives shall be enforced for periods designated at the time of the deposit which shall not exceed, and preferably will be much less than, 70 years after creation of the records.

(c) The state archivist, or representatives of the state archivist may examine records deposited in the state archives to which public access is restricted by statute or by administrative regulations authorized by statute, to the extent necessary to properly arrange, store and preserve them and provide proper public access.

(d) Statutes or administrative regulations authorized by statute restricting public access to certain types of records shall not prohibit the state archivist or authorized representatives of the state archivist from examining any government records held by a state or local agency in order to prepare comprehensive inventories containing general information about the nature, scope, contents and location of each record series, or in order to assist in properly arranging, storing and preserving government records with enduring value. No confidential information found in such restricted government records shall be revealed to any person by the state archivist or by representatives of the state archivist. Violation of this subsection shall be punishable as a class B misdemeanor.

**History:** L. 1981, ch. 331, § 7; July 1.