

Senate File 51 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 51
BY DICKEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act limiting the release of personal information maintained by
2 the department of transportation to out-of-state persons, and
3 making penalties applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.11, subsection 3, Code 2025, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section to the
4 contrary, the department shall not release personal information
5 to a person, other than to an officer or employee of a law
6 enforcement agency within this state, an employee of a federal
7 or state agency within this state or political subdivision of
8 this state in the performance of the employee's official duties,
9 a contract employee of the department of inspections, appeals,
10 and licensing in the conduct of an investigation, or a licensed
11 private investigation agency within this state or a licensed
12 security service within this state or a licensed employee of
13 either, if the information is requested by the presentation
14 of a registration plate number. In addition, an officer or
15 employee of a law enforcement agency may release the name,
16 address, and telephone number of a motor vehicle registrant to
17 a person requesting the information by the presentation of a
18 registration plate number if the officer or employee of the law
19 enforcement agency believes that the release of the information
20 is necessary in the performance of the officer's or employee's
21 duties; however, an officer or employee of a law enforcement
22 agency shall not release personal information of a person issued
23 a driver's license by the department to an out-of-state person or
24 agency if the release of personal information could be used to
25 initiate a proceeding, issue a fine, or enforce any other penalty
26 resulting from an alleged traffic violation, unless ordered to do
27 so by a court, or unless the person whose personal information
28 is requested has provided express written consent allowing the
29 disclosure of the person's personal information.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 Under current law, records of the department of transportation
34 (DOT) are generally open to public inspection during office
35 hours. However, certain confidential records and personal

1 information are protected and are not open to public inspection.
2 "Personal information" means information that identifies a
3 person, including a person's photograph, social security number,
4 driver's license number, name, address, telephone number,
5 and medical or disability information, but does not include
6 information on vehicular accidents, driving violations, and the
7 driver's status or a person's zip code.

8 The DOT is prohibited from releasing personal information,
9 if the information is requested by the presentation of a
10 registration plate number, to a person, other than to an officer
11 or employee of a law enforcement agency, an employee of a federal
12 or state agency or political subdivision in the performance
13 of the employee's official duties, a contract employee of the
14 department of inspections, appeals, and licensing in the conduct
15 of an investigation, or a licensed private investigation agency
16 or a licensed security service or a licensed employee of either.
17 This bill prohibits the DOT from releasing personal information
18 except to federal employees and other persons described in the
19 bill who are employed or licensed in Iowa.

20 Current law authorizes an officer or employee of a law
21 enforcement agency to release the name, address, and telephone
22 number of a motor vehicle registrant to a person requesting
23 the information by the presentation of a registration plate
24 number if the officer or employee of the law enforcement agency
25 believes that the release of the information is necessary in
26 the performance of the officer's or employee's duties. The
27 bill prohibits an officer or employee from releasing personal
28 information of a person issued a driver's license by the DOT
29 to an out-of-state person or agency if the release of personal
30 information could be used to initiate a proceeding, issue a
31 fine, or enforce any other penalty resulting from an alleged
32 traffic violation unless ordered to do so by a court, or unless
33 the person whose personal information is requested has provided
34 express written consent allowing disclosure of the person's
35 personal information.

1 By operation of law, a person who violates the bill commits a
2 simple misdemeanor punishable by confinement for no more than 30
3 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.

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