

1 H.863

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

3 Date:

4 Subject: Public Records Act; exemptions; identity of complainants

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a

6 Public Records Act exemption to protect the identity of persons who submit

7 complaints about public agency or government contractor misconduct.

8 An act relating to a Public Records Act exemption for the identity of
9 whistleblowers

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and
13 copying:

14 * * *

15 (41) documents reviewed by the ~~Vietim's~~ Victims Compensation Board
16 for purposes of approving an application for compensation pursuant to
17 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, except as provided by 13 V.S.A. §§ 5360 and 7043(c);

18 (42) except as otherwise provided by law, information that could be
19 used to identify a complainant who alleges that a public agency, a public
20 employee or official, or a person providing goods or services to a public

1 agency under contract has engaged in a violation of law, or in waste, fraud, or
2 abuse of authority, or in an act creating a threat to health or safety, unless the
3 complainant consents to disclosure of his or her identity.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.