

House Revenue and Taxation Committee

2/3/2026

Bill: 2nd substitute HB 325 – Government Records Classification Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Shepard

Floor Sponsor: Senator Stratton

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies provisions related to the classification of certain government records.

Discussion: Representative Shepard presented the 2nd substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. He explained that this Bill makes narrow and targeted updates to Utah's public records laws in order to better balance government transparency with individual privacy. The Bill grants government entities clear discretion to redact victim names from public reports while preserving public access to information regarding incidents and governmental responses. The sponsor stated that the intent is to maintain transparency without exposing individuals to unnecessary harm.

The Bill also clarifies that core financial documents, including general ledgers and records related to the expenditure of public funds, remain public records. At the same time, it protects sensitive personal information connected to property tax abatements, referrals, and relief programs. The sponsor noted that certain abatement records may reveal disabilities or other personal circumstances, which could make individuals vulnerable to scams or targeting. The Bill is intended to protect individual's information while preserving public oversight.

The Utah Chief Privacy Officer testified in support, citing concerns from citizens whose personal information had been publicly disclosed when it should have remained confidential.

Representative Nguyen asked about the potential for wealthy individuals with multiple trusts or abatements to misuse the privacy provisions. The sponsor clarified that the changes primarily affect blind and disabled abatement programs and are not intended to shield improper financial activity.

Yea: 10

Nay: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 2nd substitute HB 325 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
