

HCS HB 774 -- DISCLOSURE OF NEWS SOURCES (Jones, 89)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Special Committee on General Laws

This substitute protects individuals and media entities from being required to disclose in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding the source of any published or unpublished information obtained by the individual or entity. The party seeking the source of the information may petition the circuit court of the county where the proceeding is located for a court order to require the individual to disclose his or her source. The court, in making its decision, must consider the nature of the proceeding, the merits of the claim, the available alternative means for establishing the source of the information, and the public interest in protecting the confidential source. The court is authorized to compel disclosure of the information if it does not involve any information required to be kept secret under federal or state law and the disclosure is essential to the protection of the public interest involved in the proceeding.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.