

HB 1414 -- AGRICULTURAL DATA COLLECTION (Houghton)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy

This bill specifies that any data collected by any state agency under the federal Animal Disease Traceability Program (ADTP) or any data collected from farmers or ranchers for the purpose of animal health or environmental protection cannot be subject to the Sunshine Law.

The bill allows the director of any state agency or the State Veterinarian within the Department of Agriculture to release information otherwise closed when the information is useful in controlling or preventing a disease outbreak, or to show particular animals or herds are not involved in a disease outbreak.

Any unauthorized release of information is a violation of these provisions. Any entity or person alleging a violation may bring a civil action against a state agency in a court of competent jurisdiction. A court may order any appropriate relief including damages.

This bill is the same as HB 479 (2015).