

Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 1, 2023

SB 747 Public Information Act - Personnel Records- Investigations of  
Law Enforcement Officers

**Unfavorable**

I am a retired Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal a member of the Caucus of African American Leaders (CAAL). I would like to testify in opposition to SB 747 but needed a little more information from you. I agree with the statement below and will add to this written testimony.

As a result of the Dashiell decision, no one outside of law enforcement, or any other government agency, has a right to see how the agency investigates, or fails to adequately investigate, allegations of misconduct. By flouting the public's interest in obtaining assurance that official misconduct is properly addressed, this level of official secrecy profoundly undermines the public's trust in law enforcement, and government in general, that must exist for government to function effectively. "Trust us" is simply not an adequate response.

This bill restores the necessary balance by rejecting the categorical denial of access to such records and information. It provides access to basic information about the most important functions of government, namely addressing abuses of power while preserving the legitimate privacy and other interests of law enforcement officers.

For the foregoing reasons, Blacks In Government Heritage Chapter supports SB 747.