

# HARMONIZING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

## SB2540 (HATCHER) / HB2500 (ALEXANDER)

### What You Need to Know

- The bill will remedy the conflict in the public records law.
- The bill will allow recovery of costs to prepare a public record, whether a requester intends to inspect the record in office or take home.
- The bill will promote equitable and transparent public records management and eliminate the need for municipal taxpayers to cover the cost.

### What's the Problem?

- Citizens have the right to request records created or received regarding municipal business, except those records declared confidential under the law.
- By law, citizens may request records be prepared for either in-person inspection within the governmental office or to be picked up and taken home.
- If a citizen asks to have a record prepared for **pick up**, the records custodian may charge fees for qualifying labor and copying costs. As such, the **requestor** incurs the costs to gather and review the record, redact protected information, and generate a copy.
- If a citizen asks to view a record **in office**, the records custodian may not charge fees for qualifying labor and copying costs. As such, **taxpayers** incur the costs to gather and review the record, redact protected information, and generate a copy.

### What's the Solution?

- **SUPPORT SB2540 / HB2500** allowing for recovery of costs to prepare public records, regardless of whether the requestor intends to inspect the record in office or take home.