

Policy On

# Legislative Confidentiality\*

Bill and Amendment Drafts,  
Committee Reports,  
Requests for Assistance &  
Related Materials  
Are Strictly Confidential

Nonpartisan staff diligently protects confidential documents and information according to the following rules.

1. The **title of a bill or resolve** and the **sponsor's name** are public information when the request is filed, unless the sponsor asks that they remain confidential until cloture. The Governor may specify that a Governor's request for a bill or resolve remain confidential until the bill or resolve is printed.
2. Until made public, **a draft bill or amendment** is confidential and may be shared by nonpartisan legislative staff only with permission of the person or entity requesting the bill or amendment. Committee chairs may grant permission on behalf of the committee for release of draft unanimous committee amendments.
3. **Requests for assistance, advice or information** are confidential and may be divulged by nonpartisan staff only with the permission of the requestor.
4. Nonpartisan staff may share confidential information with each other when necessary to perform their responsibilities in accordance with office policies.

**Limited confidentiality of working papers:** Written records used or maintained by legislative staff to prepare proposed Senate or House papers or reports for consideration by the Legislature or any of its committees are confidential until the end of the legislative session in which the papers or reports are prepared or considered or to which they are carried over, at which time they become public records.

*\*Legislative confidentiality is governed by Maine's Freedom of Access Act (1 MRS §402, sub-§3, ¶C); Legislative Council policy; and the Joint Rules adopted by each Legislature (e.g., Joint Rule 207 of the 128th Legislature).*