

comprehensive revision of the Public Information Act. In accomplishing this major revision, House Bill 1326 provides private persons greater access to investigative, intelligence, and security records and revises the procedures relating to security of public records. That bill states as a matter of public policy that all persons are entitled to information regarding the affairs of government, subject to the protections contained in Article 76A. I subscribe to that policy declaration, but I do not believe that this same Law should impose additional burdens on government agencies to publish notice of the records' availability. The availability and security of these public documents are already assured under the terms of Article 76A.

In addition, I believe that one of the provisions of the bill may produce an unintended result. It provides, in lines 148 through 150, that the custodian must publish notice of his procedures whereby any person can be notified on request if the custodian's system of records contains a record pertaining to the person. As the bill was originally drafted, those procedures were to be applicable to a request by a "person in interest". That term is defined in Article 76A to mean the person who is the subject of the record, or his designated representative. The amended version is applicable to a "person", a defined term meaning any natural person, corporation, partnership, firm, association, or governmental agency. I believe that this provision of the bill may prove counterproductive to its stated intention to ensure the privacy of public records and may place a tremendous burden upon the custodians of certain types of records.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 609.

Sincerely,
Blair Lee III
Acting Governor

House Bill No. 611 - Regulatory Programs Evaluation
AN ACT concerning

Regulatory Programs Evaluation

FOR the purpose of maintaining a healthy State economy and a government that has the confidence of its citizens by establishing a system of periodic legislative review of