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## FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

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### LEGISLATIVE ALERT

January 30, 2018



## A LITTLE RAY OF SUNSHINE – MAYBE TWO!!!

### FIRST

Yesterday, members of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, overwhelmingly voted against SB 1178, sponsored by Senator Randolph Bracy. The bill would create a public record exemption for photographs, video, or audio recordings that depict or record the killing of a person.

The breadth of this proposed exemption and its possible impact on public accountability is breathtaking. Just look at the definition of the phrase “killing of a person” – ALL acts or events that cause or otherwise relate to a person’s death. Body camera video? Dash cam video? At a time when police and citizen confrontations remain important state and national issues, video and audio recordings are crucial in determining the facts. The importance of public access to such images and recordings *cannot* be overstated.

SB 1178 failed by a vote of 4/2 yesterday. A motion was made to temporarily postpone the bill, which means it could come back before the committee, but the

chances of that happening are slim. If you're interested in watching a video of the committee meeting, click here: <http://bit.ly/2Gu3DZH>

**We owe a BIG thanks to Senators Bradley, Brandes, Grimsley, and Baxley who all voted against the bill.**

**THANK YOU!!!!**

**SECOND**

**Representative Ray Rodrigues's excellent bill, HB 273**, passed out of the House unanimously late last week and is now sitting in Senate Messages.

If you remember from our previous alert, HB 273 simply says that a government agency can't drag a citizen into court simply because the citizen made a public record request. To see the alert from last week, click here: <http://bit.ly/2BEG3pt>

Unfortunately, the companion bill, **SB 750** by **Senator Keith Perry**, is being held up in the Senate Judiciary Committee because of pressure from the League of Cities and Association of Counties.

**WHY???**

If a custodial agency has questions about a public record request and any applicable exemptions, the agency can seek an opinion from the Attorney General. Citizens do not have that option. And it is critically important that we remember *every person* has a *constitutional* right of access to the records of our government.

Please let Representative Rodrigues and Senator Perry know that you support their good bills.

Representative Rodrigues      850/717-5076

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If you have questions about any of the bills in this alert or any of the other bills currently on our tracking list, please contact Barbara Petersen at 800/337-3518 or email [sunshine@floridafaf.org](mailto:sunshine@floridafaf.org).