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GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV

TITLE 1. GENERAL [100 - 7931.000] (Title 1 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.)

DIVISION 10. ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS [7920.000 - 7931.000] (Division 10 added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2.)

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PART 5. SPECIFIC TYPES OF PUBLIC RECORDS [7923.600 - 7929.610] (Part 5 added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2.)

2.)

CHAPTER 14. Public Employee or Official [7928.000 - 7928.410] (Chapter 14 added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2.)

ARTICLE 1. The Governor [7928.000 - 7928.015] (Article 1 added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2.)

7928.000. (a) Except as provided in Sections 7924.510, 7924.700, and 7929.610, this division does not require the disclosure of correspondence of and to the Governor or employees of the Governor's office or in the custody of or maintained by the Governor's Legal Affairs Secretary.

(b) Public records shall not be transferred to the custody of the Governor's Legal Affairs Secretary to evade the disclosure provisions of this division.

(Added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2. (AB 473) Effective January 1, 2022. Operative January 1, 2023, pursuant to Sec. 7931.000.)

7928.005. (a) When the Governor leaves office, either voluntarily or involuntarily, public records in the custody or control of the Governor shall be transferred to the State Archives as soon as practical.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the Governor, by written instrument, the terms of which shall be made public, may restrict public access to any of the transferred public records, or any other writings the Governor may transfer that have not already been made accessible to the public.

(c) With respect to public records, public access, as otherwise provided for by this division, shall not be restricted for a period greater than 50 years or the death of the Governor, whichever is later, nor shall there be any restriction whatsoever with respect to enrolled bill files, press releases, speech files, or writings relating to applications for clemency or extradition in cases that have been closed for a period of at least 25 years. Subject to any restrictions permitted by this section or Section 7928.010, the Secretary of State, as custodian of the State Archives, shall make all those public records and other writings available to the public as otherwise provided for in this division.

(Added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2. (AB 473) Effective January 1, 2022. Operative January 1, 2023, pursuant to Sec. 7931.000.)

7928.010. (a) (1) For a Governor who held office between 1974 and 1988, Section 7928.005 does not apply to public records or other writings that were in the Governor's direct custody or control at the time of leaving office, except to the extent that the Governor may voluntarily transfer those records or other writings to the State Archives.

(2) Subdivision (a) does not apply to enrolled bill files, press releases, speech files, or writings relating to applications for clemency or extradition.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the public records and other writings of any Governor who held office between 1974 and 1988 may be transferred to any educational or research institution in California. With respect to public records, however, public access, as otherwise provided for by this division, shall not be restricted for a period greater than 50 years or the death of the Governor, whichever is later.

(2) Records or writings shall not be transferred pursuant to this subdivision unless the institution receiving them agrees to maintain, and does maintain, the materials according to commonly accepted archival standards.

(3) An institution receiving public records pursuant to this subdivision shall not destroy any of those records without first receiving the written approval of the Secretary of State, as custodian of the State Archives. The Secretary of State may require that the records be placed in the State Archives rather than being destroyed.

(4) An institution receiving records or writings pursuant to this subdivision shall allow the Secretary of State, as custodian of the State Archives, to copy, at state expense, and to make available to the public, any and all public records, and inventories, indices, or finding aids relating to those records that the institution makes available to the public generally. Copies of those records in the custody of the State Archives shall be given the same legal effect as is given to the originals.

(Added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2. (AB 473) Effective January 1, 2022. Operative January 1, 2023, pursuant to Sec. 7931.000.)

7928.015. (a) The Secretary of State may appraise and manage new or existing records that are subject to Section 7928.005 or 7928.010 to determine whether the records are appropriate for preservation in the State Archives.

(b) For purposes of this section, the Secretary of State shall use professional archival practices, including, but not limited to, appraising the historic value of the records, arranging and describing the records, rehousing the records in appropriate storage containers, or providing any conservation treatment that the records require.

(Added by Stats. 2021, Ch. 614, Sec. 2. (AB 473) Effective January 1, 2022. Operative January 1, 2023, pursuant to Sec. 7931.000.)