



HB 980 OPPOSE

Current law – § 2.2-3705.3(A)(8) – protects the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those people who lodge complaints with local governments about zoning enforcement, the Uniform Statewide Building Code or the Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

HB 980 seeks to add property and email addresses of the complainants to the information that can be withheld, and it would expand the pool of complained-of incidents to include seven types of local code violations – from inoperable cars to swimming pool fencing – and those involving waste and recycling.

While some fear retaliation from reporting infractions – particularly tenants who complain against landlords – others will have carte blanche to be anonymous neighborhood scolds.

It is more appropriate to address any retaliatory behavior (housing laws, employment laws, criminal code) than it is to deny access to records that will shed light on what (or who) has prompted a local investigation into a person's use of his/her property.

Please contact Megan Rhyne (540-353-8264 or mrhyne@opengovva.org) with questions.