



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF TEXAS**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711**

**JOHN L. HILL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

February 14, 1974

Mr. Norman Suarez  
General Counsel  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
5805 N. Lamar Blvd  
P. O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773

Open Records Decision No. 23

Dear Mr. Suarez:

Two individuals have requested from your office "the cover-sheet or disposition log (showing any action taken in suspending a driver's license) together with any drivers' licenses, vehicle registrations, and copies of judgment from your files" for the month of December, 1969.

Your letter declining the disclosure, as well as subsequent conversations we have had with you and your staff, indicate that your refusal to comply with the request is based on the practical problems inherent in making the information available. You have indicated that, while you have no desire to keep the information from disclosure, the Department does not have the capacity to comply without seriously disrupting its routine activities.

Article 6252-17a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, the Open Records Act, provides in its § 3(d): "It is not intended that the custodian of public records may be called upon to perform general research within the reference and research archives and holdings of state libraries." On the other hand, § 5(b) provides, in part: ". . . the custodian or his agent shall give, grant, and extend to the person requesting public records all reasonable comfort and facility for the full exercise of the right granted by this Act."

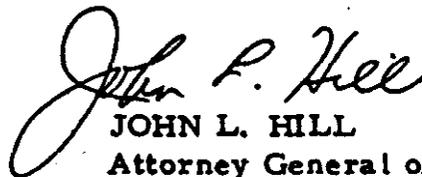
A request made under the Act must sufficiently identify the information requested and an agency may ask for a clarification if it cannot reason-

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ably understand a particular request. However, once the information sought has been identified and it is determined that it is "public information" subject to disclosure under the Act, there is no provision for denying disclosure because of the volume of information involved.

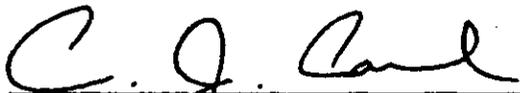
It is our decision, therefore, that the information requested is public information and should be disclosed. We share your concern about the practical difficulties and costs in making voluminous public information available. As we indicated in Open Records Decision No. 8, November 1, 1973, §§ 9 and 11 of the Act deal with the problems of the costs of providing access to and copies of public information. Subsections (a) and (b) of § 9 delegate the question of costs, at least initially, to the Board of Control and the respective governmental bodies.

Very truly yours,

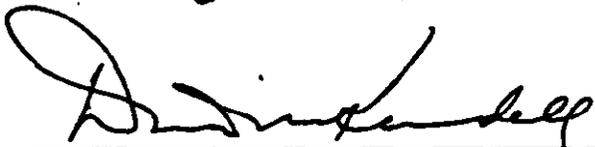


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APPROVED:



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