



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 28, 2014

Ms. Kathy Wilson, Director
Office of Agency Counsel
Legal Section MC 110-1A
Texas Department of Insurance
P.O. Box 149104
Austin, Texas 78714-9104

OR2014-06965

Dear Ms. Wilson:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 521054 (TDI #147648).

The Texas Department of Insurance (the "department") received a request for all documentation submitted to the department regarding implementation of SB 1567 after a specified date. You state information will be redacted from the requested documentation pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).¹ Although you state the department takes no position with respect to the public availability of the submitted information, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Gainsco, Inc. ("Gainsco").² Accordingly, you state and provide documentation showing, you have notified

¹Open Records Decision No. 684 is a previous determination issued by this office authorizing all governmental bodies to withhold certain categories of information without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision, including an e-mail address of a member of the public under section 552.137 of the Government Code.

²You inform us, and provide supporting documentation demonstrating, that Farmers Insurance Group does not object to the release of its information.

Gainsco of the request and its right to submit arguments to this office. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this ruling, we have not received comments from Gainsco. Thus, we have no basis to conclude Gainsco has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)-(b); Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the department may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest Gainsco may have in the information. As we have received no arguments against disclosure, the submitted information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Meredith L. Coffman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MLC/dls

Ref: ID# 521054

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Glenn Anderson, CEO
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MGA Insurance Company, Inc.
c/o Ms. Kathy Wilson, Director
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