

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; providing an exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information of certain animal researchers at public research facilities, including state universities; providing for retroactive applicability of the exemption; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) Personal identifying information of a person employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a public research facility, including a state university, that conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to animal research, is exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution, when such information is contained in the following records:

(a) Animal records, including animal care and treatment records.

(b) Research protocols and approvals.

(c) Purchasing, funding, and billing records related to animal research or activities.

(d) Animal care and use committee records.

27 (e) Facility and laboratory records related to animal  
28 research or activities.

29 (2) This exemption applies to personal identifying  
30 information as described in subsection (1) held by a public  
31 research facility, including a state university, before, on, or  
32 after the effective date of this exemption.

33 (3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset  
34 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and  
35 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and  
36 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

37 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
38 necessity that personal identifying information of a person who  
39 is employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a  
40 public research facility, including a state university, that  
41 conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to  
42 animal research, be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida  
43 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The  
44 Legislature also finds that it is a public necessity that this  
45 exemption apply to such personal identifying information held by  
46 a public research facility, including a state university,  
47 before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption. The  
48 Legislature finds that the release of such personal identifying  
49 information will place such persons in danger of threats and  
50 harassment as well as physical and emotional harm from those who  
51 advocate against such research. University employees have been  
52 harassed and threatened after animal care records that included

53 their personal identifying information were disclosed pursuant  
54 to public records requests. Thus, the Legislature finds that the  
55 harm and threat to such persons' safety that results from the  
56 release of personal identifying information in records about the  
57 animals or about the animal research outweighs any public  
58 benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the  
59 information. The public research facilities, including state  
60 universities, remain responsible and accountable for the animal  
61 research conducted at their institutions.

62 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.