

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 252.385, F.S.; creating an exemption from public
4 records requirements for the name, address, and
5 telephone number of persons provided public emergency
6 shelter and held by the agency that provided the
7 emergency shelter; providing for future legislative
8 review and repeal of the exemption; providing a
9 statement of public necessity; providing an effective
10 date.

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

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14 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 252.385,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 252.385 Public shelter space; public records exemption.—

17 (5) The name, address, and telephone number of a person
18 provided public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic
19 event and held by the agency, as defined in s. 119.011, that
20 provided the emergency shelter is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and
21 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This subsection is
22 subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance
23 with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2026,
24 unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
25 Legislature.

26 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
27 necessity that the name, address, and telephone number of a
28 person who was provided public emergency shelter during a storm
29 or other catastrophic event be made exempt from s. 119.07(1),
30 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State
31 Constitution. Emergency shelters are made available to the
32 public to provide a safe place of accommodation before, during,
33 and immediately following storms or other catastrophic events.
34 During these emergency events, those affected are in a
35 vulnerable state, as they have voluntarily displaced themselves
36 from their residences and possessions to seek refuge. The
37 information submitted to an agency by such a person seeking
38 emergency shelter during a storm or other catastrophic event
39 could be used by persons seeking to take advantage of their
40 vulnerability during or following the emergency. In addition,
41 those seeking emergency shelter for their safety and the safety
42 of their families should not be forced to forfeit their privacy
43 for the sake of such safety. Therefore, the Legislature finds
44 that the need to protect the name, address, and telephone number
45 of individuals seeking emergency shelter is sufficiently
46 compelling to override this state's public policy of open
47 government and that the protection of such information cannot be
48 accomplished without this exemption.

49 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.