

By Senator Hargrett

21-88-98

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records requirements;
3 amending s. 409.175, F.S., exempting from s.
4 119.07(1), F.S., and from s. 24(a), Art. I of
5 the State Constitution certain information
6 contained in files that pertain to the
7 licensure of family foster homes, residential
8 child-caring agencies, and child-placing
9 agencies; providing for repeal and for
10 legislative review of the exemption; providing
11 a rationale for the exemption; providing an
12 effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsection (15) is added to section
17 409.175, Florida Statutes, to read:18 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential
19 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies.--

20 (15) The following information contained in the
21 licensing file is exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)
22 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution unless
23 otherwise ordered by the court: the home, business, work,
24 childcare, or school addresses, floor plan of the home,
25 telephone numbers, social security numbers, birthdates,
26 identifying information in neighbor references, and
27 photographs of persons who are licensed under this section to
28 be family foster parents and of their spouses, their minor
29 children, and other adult household members, as well as
30 identifying information in similar sensitive, personal
31 information that is provided to the department by the foster

1 parents, their spouses, their children, or other household
2 members. This provision applies to all individuals who were
3 foster parents and became adoptive parents. This subsection
4 shall stand repealed October 2, 2003, unless reviewed and
5 saved from repeal by the Legislature.

6 Section 2. The Legislature finds that exempting from
7 public records requirements personal information concerning
8 persons who are licensed under section 409.175, Florida
9 Statutes, to be family foster parents and their spouses,
10 children, and other adult household members would reduce the
11 risk that other individuals including parents or relatives
12 could threaten, harass, or cause physical harm or other injury
13 to foster children or their foster families. The Legislature
14 finds that the availability to the public of personal and
15 sensitive background information lessens the willingness of
16 prospective caregivers to reveal sensitive information that is
17 necessary in assessing the abilities of foster parents and
18 making appropriate placements for children. The Legislature
19 further finds that the availability to the public of such
20 information has a negative effect on the recruitment and
21 retention of foster parents.

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

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26 SENATE SUMMARY

27 Provides an exemption from public records requirements
28 for personal information concerning persons who are
29 licensed under s. 409.175, F.S., to be family foster
30 parents and their spouses, children, and other adult
31 household members.