1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 3 409.175, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for specified 4 5 personal information contained in licensing 6 files concerning persons licensed to be family 7 foster parents and their spouses, children, and 8 other adult household members; providing for 9 future review and repeal; providing a finding 10 of public necessity; providing an effective date. 11 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 15 Section 1. Subsection (15) is added to section 409.175, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read: 16 17 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential 18 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies .--19 (15) The following information contained in the 20 licensing file held by the department is exempt from the 21 provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State 22 Constitution unless otherwise ordered by a court: the home, 23 business, work, childcare, or school addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, birthdates, and photographs 24 of persons who are licensed under this section to be family 25 26 foster parents and of their spouses, their minor children, and 27 other adult household members; identifying information about 28 such persons in neighbor references; the floor plan of the 29 foster home; and any identifying information about such 30 persons contained in similar sensitive, personal information

that is provided to the department by such persons. This

1 exemption shall continue to apply for any person who was 2 formerly licensed as a family foster parent and who has become 3 an adoptive parent. This subsection is subject to the Open 4 Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 5 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2002, unless 6 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the 7 Legislature. 8 Section 2. The Legislature finds that exempting from 9 public records requirements the personal information specified in s. 409.175(15), Florida Statutes, concerning persons who 10 are licensed to be family foster parents and their spouses, 11 12 children, and other adult household members would reduce the 13 risk that other individuals, including parents or relatives, could threaten, harass, or cause physical harm or other injury 14 15 to foster children or their foster families. The Legislature finds that the availability to the public of personal and 16 sensitive background information lessens the willingness of 17 18 prospective caregivers to reveal sensitive information that is necessary in assessing the abilities of foster parents and 19 20 making appropriate placements for children. The Legislature further finds that the availability to the public of such 21 information has a negative effect on the recruitment and 22 23 retention of foster parents. 24 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 25 law. 2.6 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 27 28 HOUSE SUMMARY 29 Provides an exemption from public records requirements for specified personal information contained in licensing files concerning persons licensed to be family foster parents and their spouses, children, and other adult household members. Provides for future review and repeal. 30 31