A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; creating s.

252.943, F.S.; providing an exemption from

252.943, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for information provided by a stationary source subject to the Accidental Release Prevention Program under the federal Clean Air Act; providing for future review and repeal; providing a finding of public necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 252.943, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

16 <u>252.943 Public records.--</u>

(1) Whenever Section 112(r) of the federal Clean Air Act authorizes a stationary source subject to Section 112(r)(7) to exclude trade secret information from its risk management plan, the owner or operator shall furnish the information so excluded to the State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Commission upon request. Such information is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The commission shall not disclose such information except under a final determination by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency that such information is not entitled to trade secret protection, or pursuant to an order of court. This exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and

shall stand repealed on October 2, 2003, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

- (2) Whenever Section 112(r) of the federal Clean Air Act authorizes an owner or operator of a stationary source subject to Section 112(r)(7) to elect to withhold from disclosure specific information, such information is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2003, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.
- (3) Any information that is provided to the Department of Community Affairs, or its agent, in the process of conducting an inspection, audit, or investigation which is authorized under Section 112(r) for exemption from the provisions of s. 119.07(1), is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2003, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.
- (4) The Department of Community Affairs, the State

 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Commission, and any
 local emergency planning committee may fulfill requests for
 public records under s. 119.07 for information electronically
 submitted under this part, or the Section 112(r)(7) Accidental
 Release Prevention Program, to the United States Environmental
 Protection Agency's centralized database by referral to such
 database or other reasonably accessible data collection
 points. Upon request, the department, the commission, or the
 committees shall furnish copies of public records not

available through electronic data collection points, and may elect to furnish copies of public records which are available through electronic data collection points. The department, the commission, or the committees may charge a fee of up to \$1 per page, per person, per year for over 10 pages of materials copied.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that information provided by a stationary source subject to the Accidental Release Prevention Program under the federal Clean Air Act be held confidential in order to protect legitimate property rights associated with trade secrets while allowing state officials to review and oversee risk management plans. Furthermore, the Legislature finds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to the competitive position of a stationary source.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date as House Bill or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof.

21 ************************

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Provides an exemption from public records disclosure requirements for information provided by a stationary source subject to the Accidental Release Prevention Program under the federal Clean Air Act. Provides for future review and repeal of the exemption.