

By Representative Murman

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; providing an
3 exemption from public records requirements for
4 court documents that might identify a pregnant
5 minor who petitions for a waiver of the notice
6 requirements pertaining to her request to have
7 her pregnancy terminated; requesting that the
8 Supreme Court adopt rules ensuring the
9 confidentiality of such proceedings; providing
10 for future review and repeal; providing
11 findings of public necessity; providing a
12 contingent 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. When a minor petitions a circuit court for
17 a waiver of the notice requirements pertaining to the minor's
18 seeking to terminate her pregnancy, the court proceedings
19 relating to that petition must ensure the anonymity of the
20 minor, and the identity of the minor is confidential and
21 exempt from the provisions of section 119.07(1), Florida
22 Statutes, and Section 24(a), Article I of the State
23 Constitution. All such court proceedings shall be sealed. The
24 minor has the right to use a pseudonym or her initials only in
25 filing her petition in the circuit court. All documents
26 related to this petition which in any way might identify the
27 minor shall be confidential and shall not be available to the
28 public. In addition, the Supreme Court is requested to adopt
29 rules to ensure that such documents are handled in a
30 confidential manner. This section is subject to the Open
31 Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with

1 section 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on
2 October 2, 2004, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through
3 reenactment by the Legislature.

4 Section 2. The Legislature finds that exempting from
5 the public records law requirements information that might
6 identify a minor who petitions for the termination of her
7 pregnancy is a public necessity in that the minor would likely
8 be in danger of retribution from the parent or guardian
9 against whom she has made allegations of child abuse, neglect,
10 sexual abuse, or likelihood that notifying them is not in her
11 best interest, if her identity were made public.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
13 that Senate Bill or similar legislation creating the
14 "Parental Notice of Abortion Act" takes effect, if such
15 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
16 extension thereof.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Provides an exemption from public records requirements
21 for court documents that might identify a pregnant minor
22 who petitions for a waiver of the notice requirements
23 pertaining to her request to have her pregnancy
24 terminated. Requests that the Supreme Court adopt rules
ensuring the confidentiality of such documents. Provides
25 for future review and repeal. Provides findings of public
26 necessity.
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