

By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and
Senator Bronson

317-2039-99

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public records; providing an
exemption from public records requirements for
court documents that might identify a pregnant
minor who petitions for a waiver of the notice
requirements pertaining to her request to have
her pregnancy terminated; providing findings of
public necessity; providing a contingent
effective date.

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

Section 1. When a minor petitions a circuit court for
a waiver of the notice requirements pertaining to a minor
seeking to terminate her pregnancy, any information in
documents related to the petition which could be used to
identify the minor is confidential and exempt from section
119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and Section 24 (a) of Article I
of the State Constitution.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
necessity that information in court records identifying a
minor who has petitioned the court for a waiver of parental
notification requirements be confidential and exempt from
public records requirements because disclosure of such
information is not in the best interest of the minor. In
addition, the Legislature finds that public disclosure of
identifying information may expose minors who have been
physically abused, sexually abused, or neglected by a parent
or guardian to the risk of retribution.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
that Senate Bill 1598 or similar legislation creating the

1 "Parental Notice of Abortion Act" takes effect, if such
2 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
3 extension thereof.

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5 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
7 Senate Bill 1596

8 Clarifies that the public records exemption applies to any
9 information in court documents which might identify a minor
10 petitioning the court for a waiver of parental notification
11 requirements. Clarifies that the exemption is necessary
12 because the release of identifying information is not in the
13 best interest of the minor, and may expose her to the risk of
14 retribution in instances of physical or sexual abuse or
15 neglect.

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