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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; providing exemptions from public records requirements for the identities of complainants and alleged violators of fair housing practices whose names are in the possession of the Florida Commission on Human Rights or its predecessor, the Florida Commission on Human Relations; providing a finding of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. All complaints filed with the Florida Commission on Human Rights or its predecessor, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, and all records and documents in the custody of the commission, which relate to and identify a particular person, including, but not limited to, a complainant, a housing provider, a realtor, or a real estate salesperson, or an agent of any such person, or a bank, an insurance company, a loan association, a firm, or an enterprise, the business of which consists in whole or in part of making commercial real estate loans, are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The commission may not disclose such confidential material except to the parties or in the course of a hearing or proceeding under s. 760.34, Florida Statutes. This exemption does not apply to any record or document that is part of the record of any hearing or court proceeding.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that an exemption from the public records laws of this state apply to the identities of complainants and alleged violators in connection with complaints relating to fair housing practices. This exemption is intended to prevent the likelihood of unfair interference with the business relationships of a person or an entity against whom or against which an unfair housing complaint has been lodged and of discrimination against a complainant by other housing providers, if the name of any such party is freely disclosed. Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY Provides exemptions from public records requirements for information in the possession of the Florida Commission on Human Rights or its predecessor, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, which information identifies the complainant or an alleged violator in a complaint alleging unfair housing practices.