

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; providing an
3 exemption from public-records requirements for
4 social security numbers and financial account
5 numbers which are contained in reports to the
6 Department of Banking and Finance under s.
7 717.117, F.S.; providing for future review and
8 repeal; providing findings of public necessity;
9 providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Report of abandoned or unclaimed property;
14 public records exemption.--Social security numbers and
15 financial account numbers contained in reports required to be
16 submitted to the Department of Banking and Finance pursuant to
17 s. 717.117, Florida Statutes, are confidential and exempt from
18 s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art. I of the
19 State Constitution. Notwithstanding this exemption, social
20 security numbers shall be released for the limited purpose of
21 locating abandoned or unclaimed property owners to an
22 attorney, Florida-certified public accountant, or private
23 investigator who is duly licensed in this state. This act is
24 subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in
25 accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand
26 repealed October 2, 2006, unless reviewed and saved from
27 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

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29 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
30 necessity to make confidential and exempt the social security
31 numbers and financial account numbers of abandoned or
unclaimed property owners that are in the custody of the

1 Department of Banking and Finance to prevent identity theft
2 and related crimes. The Legislature further finds that this
3 exemption is necessary to prevent the information from use in
4 forged documents demonstrating entitlement to abandoned or
5 unclaimed property and thereby defrauding the rightful
6 property owner or the State School Fund. Notwithstanding the
7 public necessity to make confidential such information, it is
8 necessary to provide access to social security numbers to an
9 attorney, Florida-certified public accountant, or private
10 investigator duly licensed in this state to facilitate the
11 location and return of unclaimed property to rightful owners.
12 The Legislature further finds that an attorney,
13 Florida-certified public accountant, or private investigator
14 is subject to more stringent regulation and oversight than the
15 public as a whole. In addition, attorneys, Florida-certified
16 public accountants, and private investigators are the only
17 persons authorized to file claims on behalf of abandoned or
18 unclaimed property owners pursuant to chapter 717, Florida
19 Statutes.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2001.
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