

Bill No. CS for SB 1444

Amendment No. ____ Barcode 891206

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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2	04/29/2003 11:36 AM	.	
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11 Senator Lynn moved the following amendment:

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13 **Senate Amendment**

14 On page 3, line 27, through page 5, line 18, delete
15 those lines

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17 and insert: be expanded to include medical records and
18 certain information regarding foster parent applicants, as
19 well as information regarding a foster parent applicant's
20 spouse, child, and other adult household members, in order to
21 protect information of a sensitive personal nature. Public
22 access to such records could cause harm or embarrassment to an
23 individual and constitutes an unwarranted invasion into an
24 individual's life and personal privacy. The harm from
25 disclosing medical records outweighs any public benefit that
26 can be derived from public access to such records. The
27 Legislature also finds that the public records exemption for
28 medical records is a public necessity because matters of
29 personal health are traditionally private and confidential
30 concerns between a patient and a health care provider. The
31 private and confidential nature of personal health matters

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1 pervades both the public and private health care sectors.
2 Furthermore, the public availability of medical records could
3 lessen the willingness of prospective caregivers to reveal
4 medical information, thus hindering the department's ability
5 to assess foster parent applicants and licensed foster parents
6 and hindering the department's attempts to make appropriate
7 placements for foster children. The Legislature further finds
8 that it is a public necessity to provide foster parent
9 applicants with the same public records exemption afforded
10 licensed foster parents under s. 409.175(16), Florida
11 Statutes, in order to encourage persons to apply to become
12 licensed foster parents. The public availability of such
13 information regarding foster parent applicants could have a
14 negative, chilling effect on the recruitment of such persons.
15 Accordingly, the public records exemption for such applicant
16 information and for medical records is a public necessity for
17 the effective and efficient operation of the foster care
18 program.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
20 law.

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