



HB 0983

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to public records; providing an exemption  
3 from public records requirements for information contained  
4 in the paternity registry maintained by the Department of  
5 Children and Family Services; providing for future review  
6 and repeal of the exemption; providing a finding of public  
7 necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

8  
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11 Section 1. All information contained in the paternity  
12 registry created by s. 63.165, Florida Statutes, is exempt from  
13 public disclosure pursuant to s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes,  
14 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, except that  
15 certificates attesting to the results of a search of the  
16 paternity registry pursuant to s. 63.165(2)(f), Florida  
17 Statutes, may be disclosed as provided in s. 63.165(2)(f),  
18 Florida Statutes. This section is subject to the Open  
19 Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s.  
20 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2,  
21 2008, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment  
22 by the Legislature.

23 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
24 necessity to exempt from disclosure pursuant to s. 119.07(1),  
25 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution  
26 all information contained in the paternity registry created by  
27 s. 63.165, Florida Statutes. The Legislature finds that it is  
28 good public policy to encourage putative fathers to grasp both  
29 the responsibility and the opportunity to be made legally aware  
30 of petitions and hearings to terminate their parental rights



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31 pending an adoption. The Legislature also finds that by  
32 providing legal notice to putative fathers, adoptions will be  
33 less likely to be legally disrupted. The Legislature further  
34 finds that the information required by the paternity registry  
35 reveals the existence of intimate sexual relations. Disclosure  
36 of this information would likely have a negative effect on the  
37 likelihood that putative fathers will register. Therefore, the  
38 Legislature finds that any benefit that could occur from public  
39 disclosure of the information in the paternity registry is  
40 outweighed by the necessity to ensure the due process rights of  
41 putative fathers.

42 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date  
43 that HB 835 or similar legislation takes effect if such  
44 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an  
45 extension thereof and becomes law.