HB 1041 2004

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to public records exemptions; creating s. 717.1171, F.S.; exempting from public records requirements 3 4 certain financial records held by the Department of 5 Financial Services; providing exceptions; creating s. 6 717.12401, F.S.; exempting from public records 7 requirements certain personal photographic information 8 held by the department; providing exceptions; creating s. 9 717.12402, F.S.; exempting from public records requirements certain databases subscribed to by the 10 11 department under certain circumstances; amending s. 717.1301, F.S.; deleting an exemption from certain public 12 13 records requirements for materials compiled by the 14 department under an investigation or examination; creating 15 s. 717.1302, F.S.; exempting from public records requirements certain materials compiled by the department 16 17 relating to investigations or examinations; providing 18 exceptions; creating s. 717.1342, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for disclosure of confidential records; 19 20 providing findings of public necessity; providing for future legislative review and repeal; providing a 21 22 contingent effective date. 24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 717.1171, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

717.1171 Public records exemption for social security
numbers, unclaimed property account dollar amounts, the number
of reported shares of stock, and financial account numbers.--

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- (1) Social security numbers, unclaimed property account dollar amounts, the number of reported shares of stock, and financial account numbers held by the department are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Notwithstanding this exemption, unclaimed property account dollar amounts and the number of reported shares of stock shall be released to an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, a licensed Floridacertified public accountant, or a private investigator licensed under chapter 493, and registered with the department under this chapter. Notwithstanding this exemption, social security numbers, unclaimed property account dollar amounts, the number of reported shares of stock, and financial account numbers held by the department may be provided to another agency in the furtherance of that agency's duties and responsibilities, or an employee of such agency. The receiving person or agency, other than the person entitled to the unclaimed property, must maintain the confidential and exempt status of such information. This exemption applies to social security numbers, unclaimed property account dollar amounts, the number of reported shares of stock, and financial account numbers held by the department before, on, or after October 1, 2004.
- (2) If information made confidential and exempt under this section is offered as evidence in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, or is otherwise subject to such proceeding, the presiding officer, in her or his discretion, may prevent the

57 <u>disclosure of information which is confidential and exempt</u>
58 pursuant to this section.

- (3) An attorney licensed to practice law in this state, a licensed Florida-certified public accountant, or a private investigator licensed under chapter 493, and registered with the department under this chapter, or an employee thereof, may disclose in good faith unclaimed property account dollar amounts and the number of reported shares of stock to a person who is believed by the attorney, accountant, or investigator, or an employee thereof, to be entitled to the unclaimed property.
- (4) The department, or an employee of the department, may disclose in good faith unclaimed property account dollar amounts and the number of reported shares of stock to a person who is believed by the department, or an employee of the department, to be entitled to the unclaimed property.
- (5) This section does not supersede the licensing requirements of chapter 493.
- Section 2. Section 717.12401, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 717.12401 Public records exemption for personal photographic identification.--
- (1) Personal photographic identification held by the department pursuant to this chapter is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption applies to personal photographic identification held by the department before, on, or after October 1, 2004.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the department from providing the personal photographic

HB 1041 2004 86 identification to any law enforcement or administrative agency 87 or regulatory organization. (3) If information made confidential and exempt under this 88 89 section is offered as evidence in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, or is otherwise subject to such proceeding, 90 the presiding officer, in her or his discretion, may prevent the 91 92 disclosure of information which is confidential and exempt 93 pursuant to this section. (4) The person receiving information which would be 94 95 confidential and exempt pursuant to this section must maintain 96 the confidentiality of the information so long as the 97 information would otherwise be confidential. Section 3. Section 717.12402, Florida Statutes, is created 98 99 to read: 100 717.12402 Public records exemption for database 101 subscription required to be confidential by the database 102 vendor. -- A database subscribed to by the department is 103 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the database vendor requires 104 105 confidentiality. 106 Section 4. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 717.1301, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 107 108 717.1301 Investigations; examinations; subpoenas. --109 (5) The material compiled by the department in an 110 investigation or examination under this chapter is confidential 111 until the investigation or examination is complete. The material 112 compiled by the department in an investigation or examination

under this chapter remains confidential after the department's investigation or examination is complete if the department has

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submitted the material or any part of it to any law enforcement agency or other administrative agency for further investigation or for the filing of a criminal or civil prosecution and such investigation has not been completed or become inactive.

(5)(6) If an investigation or an examination of the records of any person results in the disclosure of property reportable and deliverable under this chapter, the department may assess the cost of investigation or the examination against the holder at the rate of \$100 per day per investigator or examiner.

Section 5. Section 717.1302, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

717.1302 Confidentiality of information relating to investigations and examinations.--

(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, information relating to an investigation or examination by the department, or an agent of the department, pursuant to this chapter, including any list of holders under investigation or examination or to be investigated or examined, is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the investigation or examination is completed or ceases to be active. The information compiled by the department in such an investigation or examination shall remain confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution after the department's investigation or examination is completed or ceases to be active if the department submits the information to any law enforcement or administrative agency for further investigation. Such information shall remain confidential and exempt from s.

- 144 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until
- 145 that agency's investigation is completed or ceases to be active.
- 146 This section shall not be construed to prohibit disclosure of
- 147 information which is required by law to be filed with the
- 148 department and which, but for the investigation or examination,
- would be subject to s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the
- 150 State Constitution.
- (b) Except as necessary for the department to enforce the
- 152 provisions of this chapter, a consumer complaint and other
- information relative to an investigation or examination shall
- remain confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),
- 155 Art. I of the State Constitution after the investigation or
- examination is completed or ceases to be active to the extent
- 157 disclosure would:

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- 1. Jeopardize the integrity of another active
- 159 <u>investigation or examination.</u>
- 2. Reveal the name, address, telephone number, social
- security number, or any other identifying number or information
- of any complainant, customer, or account holder.
  - 3. Disclose the identity of a confidential source.
  - 4. Disclose investigative techniques or procedures.
    - 5. Reveal a trade secret as defined in s. 688.002.
- (c) If department personnel are or have been involved in
- an investigation or examination of such nature as to endanger
- 168 their lives or physical safety or that of their families, the
- 169 home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, and
- photographs of such personnel, together with the home addresses,
- telephone numbers, photographs, and places of employment of
- 172 spouses and children of such personnel and the names and

173 locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
174 children of such personnel are confidential and exempt from s.
175 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

- (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the department from providing information to any law enforcement or administrative agency. Any law enforcement or administrative agency receiving confidential information in connection with its official duties shall maintain the confidentiality of the information so long as it would otherwise be confidential.
- (e) All information obtained by the department from any law enforcement or administrative agency which is only made available to the department on a confidential or similarly restricted basis shall be confidential and exempt from s.

  119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption shall not be construed to prohibit disclosure of information which is required by law to be filed with the department or which is otherwise subject to s. 119.07(1) and s.

  24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (2) If information subject to subsection (1) is offered in evidence in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, the presiding officer, in his or her discretion, may prevent the disclosure of information which would be confidential pursuant to paragraph (1)(b).
- (3) A privilege against civil liability is granted to a person who furnishes information or evidence to the department, unless such person acts in bad faith or with malice in providing such information or evidence.
- Section 6. Section 717.1342, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

717.1342 Criminal penalties for disclosure of confidential records.—Any person who willfully and knowingly violates s.

717.1171 or s. 717.12401 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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Section 7. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that social security numbers and financial account numbers of apparent owners of unclaimed property which are in the custody of the Department of Financial Services be made confidential and exempt in order to prevent identity theft and related crimes. The Legislature further finds that this exemption is a public necessity in order to prevent the use of such information in forged documents demonstrating entitlement to unclaimed property and thereby defrauding the rightful property owner or the State School Fund. Additionally, the social security number is the only nationwide, unique numeric form of identification. Release of a person's social security number is of concern due to the amount of information such number can provide on an individual. A social security number is often the link to an individual's personal records, whether such records are financial, educational, medical, or familial in nature.

(2) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that unclaimed property account dollar amounts and the number of reported shares of stock which are in the custody of the Department of Financial Services be made confidential and exempt in order to prevent unclaimed property fraud and related crimes. The Legislature further finds that this exemption is a public necessity in order to prevent criminal elements from using such information to identify which accounts to claim by using forged

2004

HB 1041

231 documents demonstrating entitlement to unclaimed property, 232 thereby defrauding the rightful property owner or the State 233 School Fund. It is necessary, however, to provide access to 234 unclaimed property account dollar amounts and the number of 235 reported shares of stock to an attorney licensed to practice law 236 in this state, a licensed Florida-certified public accountant, a 237 private investigator licensed under chapter 493, Florida 238 Statutes, or private investigative agencies that are licensed 239 under chapter 493, Florida Statutes, and registered with the 240 department. The Legislature further finds that attorneys 241 licensed to practice law in this state, Florida-certified public 242 accountants, and private investigators and private investigative 243 agencies licensed under chapter 493, Florida Statutes, and 2.44 registered with the Department of Financial Services, are 245 subject to more stringent regulation and oversight than the 246 public as a whole. In addition, such professionals are the only 247 persons authorized to file claims on behalf of apparent owners 248 of unclaimed property pursuant to chapter 717, Florida Statutes. 249 (3) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity 250 that drivers' licenses and other personal photographic 251 identification which are in the custody of the Department of 252 Financial Services be made confidential and exempt in order to 253 prevent identity theft and related crimes. The Legislature 254 further finds that this exemption is a public necessity in order 255 to prevent the use of such information in forged documents 256 demonstrating entitlement to abandoned or unclaimed property and 257 thereby defrauding the rightful property owner or the State 258 School Fund. Additionally, a driver license is the only 259 nationwide, unique form of identification. Release of a person's

driver license is of concern due to the ability to use the driver license to obtain access to an individual's personal records, whether such records are financial, educational, medical, or familial in nature.

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- (4) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the Department of Financial Services use the most up-to-date database resources to verify whether claimants are entitled to unclaimed property and in order to prevent unclaimed property fraud and related crimes. The Legislature further finds that this exemption is a public necessity in order to help prevent criminal elements from successfully using forged documents or erroneous information demonstrating entitlement to abandoned or unclaimed property, thereby defrauding the rightful property owner or the State School Fund. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the department use the most current and efficient database resources in order to determine the validity of claims in a cost-effective manner.
- that information related to an open investigation or examination by the Department of Financial Services be made confidential and exempt until the completion of the investigation or examination in order to protect the integrity of the investigation or examination examination. The Legislature further finds that it is a public necessity that information related to an investigation or examination by the department be made confidential and exempt if the department submits the information to any law enforcement or administrative agency for further investigation in order to protect the integrity of the law enforcement or administrative agency investigation or examination. The Legislature further

HB 1041 2004 289 finds that it is a public necessity that sensitive information 290 related to another active investigation or examination, a 291 complainant, a confidential source, investigative techniques or 292 procedures, trade secrets, and at-risk department personnel and 293 their families be made confidential and exempt in order to 294 protect the sensitive nature of the information. 295 Section 8. Sections 717.1171, 717.12401, 717.12402, 296 717.1301, and 717.1302, Florida Statutes, are subject to the 297 Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 298 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 299 2009, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment 300 by the Legislature. 301 Section 9. This act shall take effect October 1, 2004, if 302 HB 1039 or substantially similar legislation is adopted in the 303 same legislative session or an extension thereof.