

By the Committee on Finance and Taxation

314-638-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 193.703, F.S.; creating an exemption from
4 disclosure under the public records law for
5 social security numbers of qualified parents or
6 grandparents who are living in quarters for
7 which a reduction in assessment has been
8 allowed under that section; providing for
9 future legislative review and repeal; providing
10 a statement of public necessity; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 193.703,
16 Florida Statutes, to read:

17 193.703 Reduction in assessment for living quarters of
18 parents or grandparents.--

19 (7) The social security number of the natural or
20 adoptive parent or grandparent of the owner of the property or
21 of the owner's spouse which is submitted to the department or
22 any state or local agency under this section is confidential
23 and exempt from s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and
24 s. 119.07(1). A copy of any document which is furnished or
25 sold by the property appraiser and which contains such a
26 social security number, except for a copy furnished to the
27 department or a copy provided to the owner of the property by
28 the department or any state or local agency for inspection or
29 examination, must exclude those social security numbers. This
30 subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act
31 of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed

1 on October 2, 2009, unless reviewed and saved from repeal
2 through reenactment by the Legislature.

3 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
4 necessity that the social security number of a qualified
5 parent or grandparent who is living in quarters for which a
6 reduction in assessment has been allowed under section
7 193.703, Florida Statutes, be exempt from public disclosure.
8 The Legislature finds that the social security number has
9 traditionally, under federal law, been considered private
10 unless a compelling public interest, such as the collection of
11 child support from a defaulting parent, overrides the right to
12 privacy and, even then, disclosure of the social security
13 number is limited. The Legislature also finds that disclosure
14 of the social security number greatly increases the risk of
15 identity theft, which has become a widespread problem in our
16 technology-based society. The public availability of this
17 information would have a chilling effect on the willingness of
18 parents and grandparents, who need the housing for which a
19 reduction in assessment is allowed under section 193.703,
20 Florida Statutes, to avail themselves of this shelter, thus,
21 in many cases, undoubtedly decreasing their standard of living
22 and perhaps leading to an increase in their need for social
23 services, including more expensive subsidized housing.
24 Accordingly, it is a public necessity that the social security
25 numbers of parents and grandparents living in property that
26 receives this reduction in assessment be disclosed only as
27 provided in section 193.703(7), Florida Statutes.

28 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
29 that Senate Bill _____ or similar legislation takes effect,
30 if such legislation is enacted in the same legislative
31 session, or an extension thereof, and becomes law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates a public-records exemption for social security numbers of qualified parents or grandparents who live in quarters for which a reduction in assessment has been allowed under s. 193.703, F.S. Provides for future legislative review and repeal. Provides a statement of public necessity.