Florida Senate - 2005

 ${\bf By}$ the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity; and Senators King and Lynn

585-2191-05 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to a public-records exemption 3 for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education 4 Program; creating s. 1002.72, F.S.; creating an 5 exemption from public-records requirements for б individual records of children enrolled in the 7 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; 8 providing for retroactive application; 9 providing for exceptions to the exemption; 10 providing for future review and repeal under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; 11 12 providing a statement of public necessity; 13 providing an effective date. 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 15 16 17 Section 1. Section 1002.72, Florida Statutes, is 18 created to read: 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary 19 Prekindergarten Education Program.--20 21 (1) The individual records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early 22 23 learning coalition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are 2.4 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I 25 26 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such 27 records include assessment data, health data, records of 2.8 teacher observations, and personal identifying information of an enrolled child and his or her parent. This exemption 29 applies to individual records of a child enrolled in the 30 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early 31

- 1	
1	learning coalition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or a
2	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider before,
3	on, or after the effective date of this exemption.
4	(2) A parent has the right to inspect and review the
5	individual Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program record
6	of his or her child and to obtain a copy of such record.
7	(3) Confidential and exempt Voluntary Prekindergarten
8	Education Program records may be released to:
9	(a) The United States Secretary of Education, the
10	United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the
11	Comptroller General of the United States for the purpose of
12	federal audits.
13	(b) Individuals or organizations conducting studies
14	for institutions to develop, validate, or administer
15	assessments or improve instruction.
16	(c) Accrediting organizations in order to carry out
17	their accrediting functions.
18	(d) Appropriate parties in connection with an
19	emergency if the information is necessary to protect the
20	health or safety of the child or other individuals.
21	(e) The Auditor General in connection with his or her
22	official functions.
23	(f) A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance
24	with an order of that court pursuant to a lawfully issued
25	subpoena.
26	(q) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
27	learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, Voluntary
28	Prekindergarten Education Program providers, or state agencies
29	for the purpose of implementing the Voluntary Prekindergarten
30	Education Program.
31	
I	

,	
1	Agencies, organizations, or individuals receiving such
2	confidential and exempt records in order to carry out their
3	official functions must protect the records in a manner that
4	will not permit the personal identification of an enrolled
5	child or his or her parent by persons other than those
6	authorized to receive the records.
7	(4) This section is subject to the Open Government
8	Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and
9	shall stand repealed October 2, 2010, unless reviewed and
10	saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.
11	Section 2. <u>The Legislature finds that it is a public</u>
12	necessity that the individual records of a child enrolled in
13	the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held by an
14	early learning coalition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
15	<u>or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider be</u>
16	made confidential and exempt from public-records requirements.
17	The exemption for such records, which include assessment data,
18	health data, records of teacher observations, and personal
19	identifying information of an enrolled child and his or her
20	parent, is necessary for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
21	Education Program to work efficiently and effectively. If such
22	records were not made confidential and exempt, the
23	administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
24	Program would be significantly impaired since parents would be
25	less inclined to allow their children to participate in the
26	program because sensitive, personal information would be made
27	available to the public. The release of such records would
28	cause an unwarranted invasion into the life and privacy of
29	enrolled children and their parents thereby significantly
30	decreasing the number of program enrollees. The Legislature
31	finds that assessment data and records of teacher observations
	2

1	contain sensitive, personal information regarding an enrolled
2	child and the child's progress in the Voluntary
3	Prekindergarten Education Program. Release of such information
4	could cause embarrassment to the child and could stifle the
5	child's progress in the program. The Legislature further finds
б	that it is a public necessity that an enrolled child's health
7	data be made confidential and exempt from public disclosure
8	because such data is of a sensitive and personal nature.
9	Matters of personal health are traditionally private and
10	confidential concerns between a patient and a health care
11	provider. The private and confidential nature of personal
12	health matters pervades both the public and private health
13	care sectors. For these reasons, an individual's expectation
14	of a right to privacy in all matters regarding his or her
15	personal health necessitates such exemption. Finally, the
16	Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the
17	personal identifying information of a child enrolled in the
18	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and the personal
19	identifying information of the child's parent be made
20	confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The release of
21	such information could endanger the safety and welfare of
22	4-year-old children, and the availability of such information
23	could lead to increased opportunities for child abduction or
24	identity theft.
25	Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
26	law.
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
	4

Florida Senate - 2005 585-2191-05 CS for SB 2220

1	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
2 3	<u>Senate Bill 2220</u>
4	Removes exception for guardians to access child's records.
5 6	Removes references to entities that fall within definition of "agency" because those references are unnecessary.
7	Makes grammatical changes.
8	
9	
10 11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16 17	
17 18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24 25	
25 26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	