Florida Senate - 2007

By the Committees on Governmental Operations; and Commerce

585-2676-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to public records; amending s.
3	288.075, F.S.; defining the terms "proprietary
4	confidential business information" and "trade
5	secret"; extending the period of
6	confidentiality for trade secrets; extending
7	the period of confidentiality for a business's
8	federal employment identification number,
9	unemployment compensation account number, and
10	Florida sales tax registration number;
11	providing for the confidentiality of
12	information that would identify wages, taxes,
13	and other employment information; providing for
14	future legislative review and repeal under the
15	Open Government Sunset Review Act; providing a
16	statement of public necessity; repealing s.
17	288.1067, F.S., relating to the confidentiality
18	of records held by the Office of Tourism,
19	Trade, and Economic Development, Enterprise
20	Florida, Inc., or county or municipal
21	governmental entities, and their employees or
22	agents; providing an effective date.
23	
24	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
25	
26	Section 1. Section 288.075, Florida Statutes, is
27	amended to read:
28	288.075 Confidentiality of records
29	(1) <u>DEFINITIONS</u> As used in this section, the term:
30	(a) "Economic development agency" means:
31	

1

1 1.(a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic 2 Development; 3 2.(b) Any industrial development authority created in 4 accordance with part III of chapter 159 or by special law; 5 3.(c) Space Florida created in part II of chapter 331; б 4.(d) The public economic development agency of a 7 county or municipality or, if the county or municipality does not have a public economic development agency, the officers or 8 employees assigned the duty of promoting the general business 9 10 interests or industrial interests of that county or municipality or responsibilities related thereto; 11 12 5.(e) Any research and development authority created 13 in accordance with part V of chapter 159; or 6.(f) Any private agency, person, partnership, 14 corporation, or business entity when authorized by the state, 15 16 a municipality, or a county to promote the general business 17 interests or industrial interests of the state or that 18 municipality or county. (b) "Proprietary confidential business information" 19 means information that is owned or controlled by the 2.0 21 corporation, partnership, or person requesting confidentiality under this section; that is intended to be and is treated by 2.2 23 the corporation, partnership, or person as private in that the disclosure of the information would cause harm to the business 2.4 operations of the corporation, partnership, or person; that 25 has not been disclosed unless disclosed pursuant to a 26 statutory provision, an order of a court or administrative 27 2.8 body, or a private agreement providing that the information may be released to the public; and that is information 29 <u>concerning:</u> 30 1. Business plans. 31

1 2. Internal auditing controls and reports of internal 2 auditors. 3 3. Reports of external auditors for privately held companies. 4 5 (c) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as in s. б 688.002. 7 (2) PLANS, INTENTIONS, AND INTERESTS. --8 (a) Upon written request from a private corporation, 9 partnership, or person, information held by an economic 10 development agency concerning plans, intentions, or interests of such private corporation, partnership, or person to locate, 11 12 relocate, or expand any of its business activities in this 13 state is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution for 12 months after 14 the date an economic development agency receives a request for 15 confidentiality or until the information is otherwise 16 17 disclosed, whichever occurs first. 18 (b) (3) An economic development agency may extend the period of confidentiality specified in paragraph (a) 19 subsection (2) for up to an additional 12 months upon written 20 21 request from the private corporation, partnership, or person 22 who originally requested confidentiality under this section 23 and upon a finding by the economic development agency that such private corporation, partnership, or person is still 2.4 actively considering locating, relocating, or expanding its 25 26 business activities in this state. Such a request for an 27 extension in the period of confidentiality must be received 2.8 prior to the expiration of any confidentiality originally 29 provided under this section. 30 (c) A public officer or employee may not enter into a binding agreement with any corporation, partnership, or person 31

3

1 who has requested confidentiality of information under this 2 subsection until 90 days after the information is made public 3 <u>unless:</u> 4 1. The public officer or employee is acting in an official capacity; 5 б 2. The agreement does not accrue to the personal 7 benefit of such public officer or employee; and 3. In the professional judgment of the officer or 8 employee, the agreement is necessary to effectuate an economic 9 10 development project. (3)(4) TRADE SECRETS.--Trade secrets held by, as 11 12 defined by s. 812.081, contained in the records of an economic 13 development agency relating to the plans, intentions, or 14 interests of a corporation, partnership, or person who has requested confidentiality pursuant to this section are 15 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I 16 17 of the State Constitution for 10 years after the date an 18 economic development agency receives a request for confidentiality or until otherwise disclosed, whichever occurs 19 20 first. 21 (4) PROPRIETARY CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION. -- Proprietary confidential business information 2.2 23 held by an economic development agency is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State 2.4 25 Constitution until such information is otherwise publicly available or is no longer treated by the proprietor as 26 27 proprietary confidential business information. 28 (5) IDENTIFICATION, ACCOUNT, AND REGISTRATION NUMBERS. -- A federal employer identification number, 29 30 unemployment compensation account number, or Florida sales tax registration number held by an economic development agency is 31

1	confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
2	of the State Constitution.
3	(6) ECONOMIC INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
4	(a) The following information held by an economic
5	development agency pursuant to the administration of an
6	economic incentive program for qualified businesses is
7	confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
8	of the State Constitution for a period not to exceed the
9	duration of the incentive agreement, including an agreement
10	authorizing a tax refund or credit, or upon termination of the
11	incentive agreement:
12	1. The percentage of the business's sales occurring
13	outside this state and, for businesses applying under s.
14	288.1045, the percentage of the business's gross receipts
15	derived from Department of Defense contracts during the 5
16	years immediately preceding the date the business's
17	application is submitted.
18	2. The anticipated wages for the project jobs that the
19	business plans to create, as reported on the application for
20	certification.
21	3. The average wage actually paid by the business for
22	those jobs created by the project or an employee's personal
23	identifying information which is held as evidence of the
24	achievement or nonachievement of the wage requirements of the
25	tax refund, tax credit, or incentive agreement programs or of
26	the job-creation requirements of such programs.
27	4. The amount of:
28	a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions which
29	are paid pursuant to chapter 212;
30	b. Corporate income taxes paid pursuant to chapter
31	220;

1	c. Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to
2	<u>chapter 199;</u>
3	d. Emergency excise taxes paid pursuant to chapter
4	221;
5	e. Insurance premium taxes paid pursuant to chapter
6	<u>624;</u>
7	f. Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter
8	<u>201;</u>
9	g. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1);
10	or
11	h. State communications services taxes paid pursuant
12	to chapter 202.
13	(b)1. An economic development agency may release:
14	a. Names of qualified businesses.
15	b. The total number of jobs each business expects to
16	create.
17	c. The total number of jobs created by each business.
18	d. The amount of tax refunds, tax credits, or
19	incentives awarded to and claimed by each business.
20	2. For a business applying for certification under s.
21	288.1045 which is based on obtaining a new Department of
22	Defense contract, the total number of jobs expected and the
23	amount of tax refunds claimed may not be released until the
24	new Department of Defense contract is awarded.
25	(c) An economic development agency may publish
26	statistics in the aggregate and classified so as to prevent
27	the identification of a single qualified applicant.
28	(5) A public officer or employee may not enter into a
29	binding agreement with any corporation, partnership, or person
30	who has requested confidentiality of information pursuant to
31	

б

1 this section until 90 days after the information is made 2 public unless: (a) The public officer or employee is acting 3 in an official capacity; 4 5 (b) The agreement does not accrue to the personal б benefit of such public officer or employee; and 7 (c) In the professional judgment of the officer or 8 employee, the agreement is necessary to effectuate an economic 9 development project. 10 (7)(6) <u>PENALTIES.--</u>Any person who is an employee of an economic development agency who violates the provisions of 11 12 this section commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, 13 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. (8) OPEN GOVERNMENT SUNSET REVIEW ACT .-- This section 14 is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in 15 accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 16 17 2, 2012, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through 18 reenactment by the Legislature. Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public 19 necessity to provide confidentiality for certain information 20 21 concerning businesses which is contained in records of an economic development agency or of a business participating in 2.2 23 a state incentive program. The disclosure of information such as trade secrets, proprietary confidential business 2.4 information, or other business information could injure a 25 business in the marketplace by providing its competitors with 26 27 detailed insights into the strategic plans of the business or 2.8 with confidential personnel information, thereby diminishing the advantage that the business maintains over those that do 29 not possess such information. Without these exemptions, 30 private-sector businesses, whose records generally are not 31

1	required to be open to the public, might refrain from
2	participating in economic-development programs or tax-credit
3	or tax-refund programs and thus would not be able to use the
4	incentives available under the programs. If a business were
5	unable to use the incentives, the business might choose to
6	locate its business and other investment activities outside
7	the state, which would deprive the state and the public of the
8	potential economic benefits associated with such business
9	activities in this state. The harm to businesses in the
10	marketplace and to the effective administration of
11	economic-development and incentive programs caused by the
12	public disclosure of such information far outweighs the public
13	benefits derived from the release of the information.
14	Section 3. <u>Section 288.1067, Florida Statutes, is</u>
15	repealed.
16	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
17	
18	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
19	Senate Bill 1182
20	
21	Clarifies that proprietary confidential business information that is no longer treated by the proprietor as such or which
22	information is otherwise publicly available is not protected.
23	Provides expiration of exemption for certain information upon termination of an incentive agreement.
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
	Q