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2 An act relating to public records; amending s.  
3 119.07, F.S.; authorizing a custodian of public  
4 records to designate another officer or  
5 employee of the agency to permit the inspection  
6 and copying of public records; requiring that  
7 the designee be identified; requiring  
8 custodians of public records and their  
9 designees to respond to requests to inspect and  
10 copy public records promptly and in good faith;  
11 amending ss. 497.140, 627.311, and 627.351,  
12 F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an  
13 effective date.  
14

15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
16

17 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 119.07, Florida  
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 119.07 Inspection and copying of records;  
20 photographing public records; fees; exemptions.--

21 (1)(a) Every person who has custody of a public record  
22 shall permit the record to be inspected and copied by any  
23 person desiring to do so, at any reasonable time, under  
24 reasonable conditions, and under supervision by the custodian  
25 of the public records.

26 (b) A custodian of public records or a person having  
27 custody of public records may designate another officer or  
28 employee of the agency to permit the inspection and copying of  
29 public records, but must disclose the identity of the designee  
30 to the person requesting to inspect or copy public records.  
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1           (c) A custodian of public records and his or her  
2 designee must acknowledge requests to inspect or copy records  
3 promptly and respond to such requests in good faith. A good  
4 faith response includes making reasonable efforts to determine  
5 from other officers or employees within the agency whether  
6 such a record exists and, if so, the location at which the  
7 record can be accessed.

8           ~~(d)(b)~~ A person who has custody of a public record who  
9 asserts that an exemption applies to a part of such record  
10 shall redact that portion of the record to which an exemption  
11 has been asserted and validly applies, and such person shall  
12 produce the remainder of such record for inspection and  
13 copying.

14           ~~(e)(e)~~ If the person who has custody of a public  
15 record contends that all or part of the record is exempt from  
16 inspection and copying, he or she shall state the basis of the  
17 exemption that he or she contends is applicable to the record,  
18 including the statutory citation to an exemption created or  
19 afforded by statute.

20           ~~(f)(d)~~ If requested by the person seeking to inspect  
21 or copy the record, the custodian of public records shall  
22 state in writing and with particularity the reasons for the  
23 conclusion that the record is exempt or confidential.

24           ~~(g)(e)~~ In any civil action in which an exemption to  
25 this section is asserted, if the exemption is alleged to exist  
26 under or by virtue of s. 119.071(1)(d) or (f), (2)(d),(e), or  
27 (f), or (4)(c), the public record or part thereof in question  
28 shall be submitted to the court for an inspection in camera.  
29 If an exemption is alleged to exist under or by virtue of s.  
30 119.071(2)(c), an inspection in camera is discretionary with  
31 the court. If the court finds that the asserted exemption is

1 not applicable, it shall order the public record or part  
2 thereof in question to be immediately produced for inspection  
3 or copying as requested by the person seeking such access.

4 (h)~~(f)~~ Even if an assertion is made by the custodian  
5 of public records that a requested record is not a public  
6 record subject to public inspection or copying under this  
7 subsection, the requested record shall, nevertheless, not be  
8 disposed of for a period of 30 days after the date on which a  
9 written request to inspect or copy the record was served on or  
10 otherwise made to the custodian of public records by the  
11 person seeking access to the record. If a civil action is  
12 instituted within the 30-day period to enforce the provisions  
13 of this section with respect to the requested record, the  
14 custodian of public records may not dispose of the record  
15 except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction after  
16 notice to all affected parties.

17 (i)~~(g)~~ The absence of a civil action instituted for  
18 the purpose stated in paragraph (g)~~(e)~~ does not relieve the  
19 custodian of public records of the duty to maintain the record  
20 as a public record if the record is in fact a public record  
21 subject to public inspection and copying under this subsection  
22 and does not otherwise excuse or exonerate the custodian of  
23 public records from any unauthorized or unlawful disposition  
24 of such record.

25 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 497.140, Florida  
26 Statutes, is amended to read:

27 497.140 Fees.--

28 (5) The department shall charge a fee not to exceed  
29 \$25 for the certification of a public record. The fee shall be  
30 determined by rule of the department. The department shall  
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1 assess a fee for duplication of a public record as provided in  
2 s. 119.07(1)(a) and ~~(e)(b)~~.

3 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
4 627.311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 627.311 Joint underwriters and joint reinsurers;  
6 public records and public meetings exemptions.--

7 (4) The Florida Automobile Joint Underwriting  
8 Association:

9 (b) Shall keep portions of association meetings during  
10 which confidential and exempt underwriting files or  
11 confidential and exempt claims files are discussed exempt from  
12 the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State  
13 Constitution. All closed portions of association meetings  
14 shall be recorded by a court reporter. The court reporter  
15 shall record the times of commencement and termination of the  
16 meeting, all discussion and proceedings, the names of all  
17 persons present at any time, and the names of all persons  
18 speaking. No portion of any closed meeting shall be off the  
19 record. Subject to the provisions of this paragraph and s.  
20 119.07(1)(e)-(g) ~~s. 119.07(1)(b)-(d)~~, the court reporter's  
21 notes of any closed meeting shall be retained by the  
22 association for a minimum of 5 years. A copy of the  
23 transcript, less any confidential and exempt information, of  
24 any closed meeting during which confidential and exempt claims  
25 files are discussed shall become public as to individual  
26 claims files after settlement of that claim.

27 Section 4. Paragraph (w) of subsection (6) of section  
28 627.351, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 21 of chapter  
29 2007-1, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

30 627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.--

31 (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION.--

1           (w)1. The following records of the corporation are  
2 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
3 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

4           a. Underwriting files, except that a policyholder or  
5 an applicant shall have access to his or her own underwriting  
6 files.

7           b. Claims files, until termination of all litigation  
8 and settlement of all claims arising out of the same incident,  
9 although portions of the claims files may remain exempt, as  
10 otherwise provided by law. Confidential and exempt claims file  
11 records may be released to other governmental agencies upon  
12 written request and demonstration of need; such records held  
13 by the receiving agency remain confidential and exempt as  
14 provided for herein.

15           c. Records obtained or generated by an internal  
16 auditor pursuant to a routine audit, until the audit is  
17 completed, or if the audit is conducted as part of an  
18 investigation, until the investigation is closed or ceases to  
19 be active. An investigation is considered "active" while the  
20 investigation is being conducted with a reasonable, good faith  
21 belief that it could lead to the filing of administrative,  
22 civil, or criminal proceedings.

23           d. Matters reasonably encompassed in privileged  
24 attorney-client communications.

25           e. Proprietary information licensed to the corporation  
26 under contract and the contract provides for the  
27 confidentiality of such proprietary information.

28           f. All information relating to the medical condition  
29 or medical status of a corporation employee which is not  
30 relevant to the employee's capacity to perform his or her  
31 duties, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph.

1 Information which is exempt shall include, but is not limited  
2 to, information relating to workers' compensation, insurance  
3 benefits, and retirement or disability benefits.

4 g. Upon an employee's entrance into the employee  
5 assistance program, a program to assist any employee who has a  
6 behavioral or medical disorder, substance abuse problem, or  
7 emotional difficulty which affects the employee's job  
8 performance, all records relative to that participation shall  
9 be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
10 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, except as  
11 otherwise provided in s. 112.0455(11).

12 h. Information relating to negotiations for financing,  
13 reinsurance, depopulation, or contractual services, until the  
14 conclusion of the negotiations.

15 i. Minutes of closed meetings regarding underwriting  
16 files, and minutes of closed meetings regarding an open claims  
17 file until termination of all litigation and settlement of all  
18 claims with regard to that claim, except that information  
19 otherwise confidential or exempt by law will be redacted.

20  
21 When an authorized insurer is considering underwriting a risk  
22 insured by the corporation, relevant underwriting files and  
23 confidential claims files may be released to the insurer  
24 provided the insurer agrees in writing, notarized and under  
25 oath, to maintain the confidentiality of such files. When a  
26 file is transferred to an insurer that file is no longer a  
27 public record because it is not held by an agency subject to  
28 the provisions of the public records law. Underwriting files  
29 and confidential claims files may also be released to staff of  
30 and the board of governors of the market assistance plan  
31 established pursuant to s. 627.3515, who must retain the

1 confidentiality of such files, except such files may be  
2 released to authorized insurers that are considering assuming  
3 the risks to which the files apply, provided the insurer  
4 agrees in writing, notarized and under oath, to maintain the  
5 confidentiality of such files. Finally, the corporation or the  
6 board or staff of the market assistance plan may make the  
7 following information obtained from underwriting files and  
8 confidential claims files available to licensed general lines  
9 insurance agents: name, address, and telephone number of the  
10 residential property owner or insured; location of the risk;  
11 rating information; loss history; and policy type. The  
12 receiving licensed general lines insurance agent must retain  
13 the confidentiality of the information received.

14           2. Portions of meetings of the corporation are exempt  
15 from the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the  
16 State Constitution wherein confidential underwriting files or  
17 confidential open claims files are discussed. All portions of  
18 corporation meetings which are closed to the public shall be  
19 recorded by a court reporter. The court reporter shall record  
20 the times of commencement and termination of the meeting, all  
21 discussion and proceedings, the names of all persons present  
22 at any time, and the names of all persons speaking. No portion  
23 of any closed meeting shall be off the record. Subject to the  
24 provisions hereof and s. 119.07(1)(e)-(g) ~~s. 119.07(1)(b)-(d)~~,  
25 the court reporter's notes of any closed meeting shall be  
26 retained by the corporation for a minimum of 5 years. A copy  
27 of the transcript, less any exempt matters, of any closed  
28 meeting wherein claims are discussed shall become public as to  
29 individual claims after settlement of the claim.

30           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.  
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