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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to public records and meetings; amending
 s. 292.055, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
 records requirements for information concerning certain
 donors and prospective donors to the direct-support
 organization of the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
 providing an exemption from public meeting requirements
 for portions of meetings of the direct-support
 organization at which the identity of donors and
 prospective donors is discussed; providing for future
 legislative review and repeal of the exemption under the
 Open Government Sunset Review Act; providing a statement
 of public necessity; providing a contingent effective
 date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 292.055,
 Florida Statutes, as created by HB 861, 2008 Regular Session, to
 read:

292.055 Direct-support organization.--

(9) CONFIDENTIALITY OF DONORS.--

(a) The identity of a donor or prospective donor to the
 direct-support organization who desires to remain anonymous, and
 all information identifying such donor or prospective donor, is
 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and
 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(b) Portions of meetings of the direct-support

29 organization during which the identity of donors or prospective
 30 donors is discussed are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011
 31 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.

32 (c) This subsection is subject to the Open Government
 33 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand
 34 repealed on October 2, 2013, unless reviewed and saved from
 35 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

36 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
 37 necessity to exempt from public records requirements the
 38 identity of donors and prospective donors to the direct-support
 39 organization authorized to assist the Department of Veterans'
 40 Affairs in carrying out its function to serve the military
 41 veterans of this state. The ability to protect the identity of
 42 donors and prospective donors will enable the direct-support
 43 organization to effectively and efficiently administer the
 44 promotion and public-education efforts of the direct-support
 45 organization related to the goal of assisting veterans who
 46 return from recent conflicts. The purpose of the exemption is to
 47 honor the request for anonymity of donors or prospective donors
 48 to the not-for-profit corporation, thereby encouraging donations
 49 from individuals and entities that might otherwise decline to
 50 contribute. Without the exemption, potential donors may be
 51 dissuaded from contributing to the direct-support organization
 52 for fear of being harmed by the release of sensitive financial
 53 information. Difficulty in soliciting donations would hamper the
 54 ability of the direct-support organization to carry out its
 55 education and rehabilitation activities to promote and advance a
 56 veteran's reintegration into the community through both public-

57 sector and private-sector funding. Further, the Legislature
58 finds that it is a public necessity to exempt from public
59 meeting requirements that portion of a meeting of the direct-
60 support organization at which the identity of a donor or
61 prospective donor is discussed. The failure to close that
62 portion of a meeting at which such information is discussed
63 would defeat the purpose of the public records exemption and
64 could result in the release of the identity of a donor or
65 prospective donor, thus leading to a reduction in donations and
66 the subsequent hindrance of the effective and efficient
67 operation of this governmental program.

68 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, if
69 House Bill 861, or similar legislation establishing a direct-
70 support organization for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, is
71 adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof
72 and becomes law.