

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7077

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:

114 Y's 0 N's

SPONSOR: Rep. Logan

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

COMPANION BILLS: SB 602

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 7077 passed the House on April 28, 2011, and subsequently passed the Senate on April 29, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on June 21, 2011, chapter 2011-202, Laws of Florida, and takes effect October 1, 2011.

The bill reenacts the public record exemption for biometric identification information.

The Open Government Sunset Review Act requires the Legislature to review each public record and each public meeting exemption five years after enactment. If the Legislature does not reenact the exemption, it automatically repeals on October 2nd of the fifth year after enactment.

Current law provides a public record exemption for biometric identification information held by an agency before, on, or after July 1, 2006. Biometric identification information means any record of friction ridge detail, fingerprints, palm prints, and footprints.

The bill reenacts the public record exemption for biometric identification information, which will repeal on October 2, 2011, if this bill does not become law.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local government.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Background

Open Government Sunset Review Act

The Open Government Sunset Review Act¹ sets forth a legislative review process for newly created or substantially amended public record or public meeting exemptions. It requires an automatic repeal of the exemption on October 2nd of the fifth year after creation or substantial amendment, unless the Legislature reenacts the exemption.

The Act provides that a public record or public meeting exemption may be created or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose. In addition, it may be no broader than is necessary to meet one of the following purposes:

- Allows the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, which administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption.
- Protects sensitive personal information that, if released, would be defamatory or would jeopardize an individual's safety; however, only the identity of an individual may be exempted under this provision.
- Protects trade or business secrets.

If, and only if, in reenacting an exemption that will repeal, the exemption is expanded (essentially creating a new exemption), then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are required.² If the exemption is reenacted with grammatical or stylistic changes that do not expand the exemption, if the exemption is narrowed, or if an exception to the exemption is created³ then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are not required.

Public Record Exemption under Review

In 2006, the Legislature created a general public record exemption for biometric identification information held by an agency⁴ before, on, or after July 1, 2006.⁵ The information is made exempt⁶ from public records requirements and the exemption applies retroactively. Biometric

¹ Section 119.15, F.S.

² Section 24(c), Art. I of the State Constitution.

³ An example of an exception to a public record exemption would be allowing another agency access to confidential or exempt records.

⁴ Section 119.011(2), F.S., defines "agency" to mean "any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law including, for the purposes of this chapter, the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency."

⁵ Chapter 2006-181, L.O.F.; codified as s. 119.071(5)(g), F.S.

⁶ There is a difference between records the Legislature designates as exempt from public record requirements and those the Legislature deems confidential and exempt. A record classified as exempt from public disclosure may be disclosed under certain circumstances. (See *WFTV, Inc. v. The School Board of Seminole*, 874 So.2d 48, 53 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004), review denied 892 So.2d 1015 (Fla. 2004); *City of Riviera Beach v. Barfield*, 642 So.2d 1135 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994); *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So.2d 687 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991). If the Legislature designates a record as confidential and exempt from public disclosure, such record may not be released, by the custodian of public records, to anyone other than the persons or entities specifically designated in the statutory exemption. (See Attorney General Opinion 85-62, August 1, 1985).

identification information means any record of friction ridge detail, fingerprints,⁷ palm prints, and footprints.

Pursuant to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, the exemption will repeal on October 2, 2011, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill removes the repeal date, thereby reenacting the public record exemption for biometric identification information and saving it from repeal.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

⁷ Current law provides public record exemptions for fingerprints under limited circumstances: fingerprints collected under chapter 447, F.S., relating to labor organizations are confidential and exempt (s. 447.045, F.S.); fingerprints collected for identifying a child in the event that the child becomes missing, are exempt (s. 937.028(1), F.S.); and fingerprints of a child charged with or who committed certain offenses are confidential and exempt (s. 985.212(1), F.S.). The exemptions are not duplicative of the public record exemption under review because these exemptions also protect records associated with the fingerprinting process.