

By Senator Bogdanoff

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 119.0713, F.S.; expanding an exemption from public-
4 records requirements to include certain records
5 relating to investigations in the custody of an
6 inspector general of a local government; providing for
7 future repeal and legislative review of such revisions
8 to the exemption under the Open Government Sunset
9 Review Act; providing a statement of public necessity;
10 providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Section 119.0713, Florida Statutes, is amended
15 to read:

16 119.0713 Local government agency exemptions from inspection
17 or copying of public records.—

18 (1) All complaints and other records in the custody of any
19 unit of local government which relate to a complaint of
20 discrimination relating to race, color, religion, sex, national
21 origin, age, handicap, marital status, sale or rental of
22 housing, the provision of brokerage services, or the financing
23 of housing are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of
24 the State Constitution until a finding is made relating to
25 probable cause, the investigation of the complaint becomes
26 inactive, or the complaint or other record is made part of the
27 official record of any hearing or court proceeding. This
28 provision does ~~shall~~ not affect any function or activity of the
29 Florida Commission on Human Relations. Any state or federal

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30 agency that is authorized to ~~have~~ access ~~to~~ such complaints or
31 records by any provision of law shall be granted such access in
32 the furtherance of such agency's statutory duties. This
33 subsection does ~~shall~~ not be ~~construed~~ to modify or repeal any
34 special or local act.

35 (2) (a) The audit report of an internal auditor and the
36 investigative report of the inspector general prepared for or on
37 behalf of a unit of local government becomes a public record
38 when the audit or investigation becomes final. As used in this
39 subsection, the term "unit of local government" means a county,
40 municipality, special district, local agency, authority,
41 consolidated city-county government, or any other local
42 governmental body or public body corporate or politic authorized
43 or created by general or special law. An audit or investigation
44 becomes final when the audit report or investigative report is
45 presented to the unit of local government. Audit Workpapers and
46 notes related to such audit and information received, produced,
47 or derived from an investigation ~~report~~ are confidential and
48 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
49 Constitution until the audit or investigation is complete
50 ~~completed~~ and the audit report becomes final or when the
51 investigation is no longer active.

52 (b) Paragraph (a) is subject to the Open Government Sunset
53 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand
54 repealed on October 2, 2016, unless reviewed and saved from
55 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

56 (3) Any data, record, or document used directly or solely
57 by a municipally owned utility to prepare and submit a bid
58 relative to the sale, distribution, or use of any service,

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59 commodity, or tangible personal property to any customer or
60 prospective customer is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),
61 Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption commences when
62 a municipal utility identifies in writing a specific bid to
63 which it intends to respond. This exemption no longer applies
64 after ~~when~~ the contract for sale, distribution, or use of the
65 service, commodity, or tangible personal property is executed, a
66 decision is made not to execute such contract, or the project is
67 no longer under active consideration. The exemption in this
68 subsection includes the bid documents actually furnished in
69 response to the request for bids. However, the exemption for the
70 bid documents submitted no longer applies after the bids are
71 opened by the customer or prospective customer.

72 Section 2. The Legislature finds that a public necessity
73 exists to exempt from public-records requirements audit reports
74 and investigative reports and related workpapers and notes and
75 information received, produced, or derived from an audit or
76 investigation by an auditor or inspector general of a local
77 government until the audit or investigation is completed and the
78 audit report becomes final or the investigation is no longer
79 active. The exemption is necessary because the release of such
80 information could potentially be defamatory to an individual or
81 entity under audit or investigation, causing unwarranted damage
82 to the good name or reputation of an individual or company, or
83 could significantly impair an administrative or criminal
84 investigation.

85 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2011.