CS/HB 1019 2014

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 409.1678, F.S.; providing an exemption from public 3 records requirements for information about the 4 5 location of safe houses and safe foster homes held by 6 an agency; providing for future legislative review and 7 repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of 8 public necessity; providing a contingent effective 9 date. 10 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 12 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 409.1678, 13 Florida Statutes, to read: 14 15 409.1678 Safe harbor for children who are victims of 16 sexual exploitation.-17 (5)(a) Information held by an agency as defined in s. 18 119.011 about the location of safe houses and safe foster homes 19 is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. 20 I of the State Constitution. 21 Information about the location of safe houses and safe (b) 22 foster homes may be provided to an agency, as defined in s. 23 119.011, as necessary to maintain health and safety standards 24 and to address emergency situations in the safe house and safe

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This subsection is subject to the Open Government

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foster home.

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27 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from 28 29 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. 30 The Legislature finds that it is a public 31 necessity that information about the location of safe houses and 32 safe foster homes held by an agency, as defined in s. 119.011, 33 Florida Statutes, be made confidential and exempt from s. 34 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Safe houses and safe foster homes are 35 36 intended as refuges for sexually exploited victims from those who exploited them. If the individuals who victimized these 37 38 people were able to learn the location of such safe houses, they 39 may attempt to contact their victims, exploit their 40 vulnerabilities, and return them to the situations in which they 41 were victimized. Even without the return of these victims to their former situations, additional contact with those who 42 43 victimized them would have the effect of continuing their 44 victimization and inhibiting their recoveries. Additionally, 45 knowledge about the location of safe houses and safe foster 46 homes could enable other individuals to locate and attempt to 47 victimize the residents. Therefore, it is the finding of the 48 Legislature that such information must be made confidential and 49 exempt from public disclosure. 50 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date 51 that HB 1017 or similar legislation relating to human 52 trafficking takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the

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