

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: RCS 04/21/2014 House

The Committee on Rules (Galvano) recommended the following: Senate Amendment (with title amendment) Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert: Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 316.066, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to read: 316.066 Written reports of crashes.-(2) (b) Crash reports held by an agency under paragraph (a) may be made immediately available to the parties involved in the

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12 crash, their legal representatives, their licensed insurance 13 agents, their insurers or insurers to which they have applied for coverage, persons under contract with such insurers to 14 15 provide claims or underwriting information, prosecutorial authorities, law enforcement agencies, the Department of 16 17 Transportation, county traffic operations, victim services programs, radio and television stations licensed by the Federal 18 19 Communications Commission, newspapers qualified to publish legal 20 notices under ss. 50.011 and 50.031, and, in accordance with 21 paragraph (f), free newspapers of general circulation, published once a week or more often, of which at least 7,500 copies are 22 23 distributed by mail or by carrier as verified by a postal 24 statement or by a notarized printer's statement of press run, 25 which are intended to be generally distributed and circulated, 26 and which contain news of general interest with at least 10 27 pages per publication, available and of interest to the public 28 generally for the dissemination of news. For the purposes of 29 this section, the following products or publications are not 30 newspapers as referred to in this section: those intended primarily for members of a particular profession or occupational 31 32 group; those with the primary purpose of distributing 33 advertising; and those with the primary purpose of publishing 34 names and other personal identifying information concerning parties to motor vehicle crashes. 35

36 (f) Free newspapers of general circulation published once a 37 week or more often, of which at least 7,500 copies are 38 distributed by mail or by carrier as verified by a postal 39 statement or by a notarized printer's statement of press run, 40 which are intended to be generally distributed and circulated, Florida Senate - 2014 Bill No. SB 1046

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| 41 | which contain news of general interest with at least 10 pages    |
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| 42 | per publication, available and of interest to the public         |
| 43 | generally for the dissemination of news, and which request 10 or |
| 44 | more crash reports within a 24-hour period before 60 days have   |
| 45 | elapsed after the report is filed may not have access to the     |
| 46 | home, cellular, employment, or other telephone number or the     |
| 47 | home or employment address of any of the parties involved in the |
| 48 | crash. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset   |
| 49 | Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed |
| 50 | on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from repeal        |
| 51 | through reenactment by the Legislature.                          |
| 52 | Section 2. The Legislature finds that a crash report that        |
| 53 | reveals the home, cellular, employment, or other telephone       |
| 54 | number or the home or employment address of any of the parties   |
| 55 | involved in a crash and that is held by an agency that regularly |
| 56 | receives or prepares information from or concerning the parties  |
| 57 | involved in motor vehicle crashes is confidential and exempt     |
| 58 | from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of  |
| 59 | the State Constitution for 60 days after the date that the       |
| 60 | report is filed. Public access to such information during that   |
| 61 | 60-day period by free newspapers of general circulation,         |
| 62 | published once a week or more often, of which at least 7,500     |
| 63 | copies are distributed by mail or by carrier as verified by a    |
| 64 | postal statement or by a notarized printer's statement of press  |
| 65 | run, which are intended to be generally distributed and          |
| 66 | circulated, which contain news of general interest with at least |
| 67 | 10 pages per publication, available and of interest to the       |
| 68 | public generally for the dissemination of news, and which        |
| 69 | request 10 or more crash reports within a 24-hour period before  |
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| 70 | 60 days have elapsed after the report is filed should be                  |
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| 71 | restricted to combat widespread insurance fraud that occurs when          |
| 72 | the information is unlawfully used to contact the parties                 |
| 73 | involved in a crash. The exemption protects the parties involved          |
| 74 | in a crash from those who would unlawfully solicit personal               |
| 75 | injury protection insurance claims. Accordingly, the Legislature          |
| 76 | finds that the harm to parties involved in a crash which could            |
| 77 | result from the release of such information outweighs any                 |
| 78 | minimal public benefit that would be derived from disclosure of           |
| 79 | that information to the public. Therefore, it is the finding of           |
| 80 | the Legislature that such information must be made confidential           |
| 81 | and exempt from public records requirements.                              |
| 82 | Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that               |
| 83 | SB 876 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation           |
| 84 | is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension                |
| 85 | thereof and becomes law.  |
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| 87 | =========== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ================================= |
| 88 | And the title is amended as follows:                                      |
| 89 | Delete everything before the enacting clause                              |
| 90 | and insert:   |
| 91 | A bill to be entitled   |
| 92 | An act relating to public records; amending s.                            |
| 93 | 316.066, F.S.; providing an exemption from public                         |
| 94 | records requirements for certain personal contact                         |
| 95 | information contained in motor vehicle crash reports;                     |
| 96 | providing for future legislative review and repeal of                     |
| 97 | the exemption; providing a statement of public                            |
| 98 | necessity; providing a contingent effective date.                         |
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