

By Senator Flores

37-01920-14

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to public records; amending ss.  
3       119.0713 and 409.1678, F.S.; providing exemptions from  
4       public records requirements for information about the  
5       location of safe houses and such other facilities held  
6       by units of local government or the Department of  
7       Children and Families; providing for future  
8       legislative review and repeal of the exemptions;  
9       providing a statement of public necessity; providing a  
10      contingent effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14       Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 119.0713,  
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

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

18       (5) Information about the location of safe houses and other  
19 facilities housing victims of human trafficking, as those  
20 victims are defined in s. 787.06, held by a unit of local  
21 government including, but not limited to a law enforcement  
22 agency, tax collector, clerk of court, or property appraiser, is  
23 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
24 of the State Constitution. Such facilities include facilities  
25 operated by the Department of Children and Families under s.  
26 409.1678. This subsection is subject to the Open Government  
27 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand  
28 repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from  
29 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

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30 Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 409.1678,  
31 Florida Statutes, to read:

32 409.1678 Safe harbor for children who are victims of sexual  
33 exploitation.—

34 (5) Information held by the department about the location  
35 of safe houses and short-term safe houses and facilities is  
36 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
37 of the State Constitution. This subsection is subject to the  
38 Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15  
39 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and  
40 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

41 Section 3. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public  
42 necessity that information about the location of safe houses and  
43 short-term safe houses and facilities held by a unit of local  
44 government be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes,  
45 and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Safe houses  
46 and short-term safe houses are intended as refuges for sexually  
47 exploited victims from those who exploited them. If the  
48 individuals who victimized these people were able to learn the  
49 location of such safe houses, they may attempt to contact their  
50 victims, exploit their vulnerabilities, and return them to the  
51 situations in which they were victimized. Even without the  
52 return of these victims to their former situations, additional  
53 contact with those who victimized them would have the effect of  
54 continuing their victimization and inhibit their recoveries.  
55 Therefore, it is the finding of the Legislature that such  
56 identifying information must be made confidential and exempt  
57 from public disclosure.

58 (2) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity

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59 that information about the location of safe houses and short-  
60 term safe houses and facilities held by the Department of  
61 Children and Families be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida  
62 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.  
63 Safe houses and short-term safe houses are intended as refuges  
64 for sexually exploited children from those who exploited them.  
65 If the individuals who victimized such children were able to  
66 learn the location of such safe houses, they may attempt to  
67 contact their victims, exploit their vulnerabilities, and return  
68 them to the situations in which they were victimized. Even  
69 without the return of these child victims to their former  
70 situations, additional contact with those who victimized them  
71 would have the effect of continuing their victimization and  
72 inhibit their recoveries. Therefore, it is the finding of the  
73 Legislature that such identifying information must be made  
74 confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

75 Section 4. This act shall take effect on the same date that  
76 SB \_\_\_\_ or similar legislation relating to human trafficking  
77 takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same  
78 legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.