

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senators Flores and Bullard

586-03530-14

20141436c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 409.1678, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
4 records requirements for information about the
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.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 409.1678,
14 Florida Statutes, to read:

15 409.1678 Safe harbor for children who are victims of sexual
16 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 (b) Information about the location of safe houses and safe
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
25 foster home.

26 (c) 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28 repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from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. 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
35 State Constitution. Safe houses and safe foster homes are
36 intended as refuges for sexually exploited victims from those
37 who exploited them. If the individuals who victimized these
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
42 their former situations, additional contact with those who
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 that
51 SB 1440 or similar legislation relating to human trafficking
52 takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same
53 legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.