

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Dean

581-03198-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; providing an
3 exemption from public records requirements for
4 personal identifying information of certain animal
5 researchers at public research facilities, including
6 state universities; providing for retroactive
7 applicability of the exemption; providing for future
8 legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
9 providing a statement of public necessity; providing
10 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. (1) Personal identifying information of a person
15 employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a public
16 research facility, including a state university, that conducts
17 animal research or is engaged in activities related to animal
18 research, is exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s.
19 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution, when such
20 information is contained in the following records:

21 (a) Animal records, including animal care and treatment
22 records.

23 (b) Research protocols and approvals.

24 (c) Purchasing, funding, and billing records related to
25 animal research or activities.

26 (d) Animal care and use committee records.

27 (e) Facility and laboratory records related to animal
28 research or activities.

29 (2) This exemption applies to personal identifying

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30 information as described in subsection (1) held by a public
31 research facility, including a state university, before, on, or
32 after the effective date of this exemption.

33 (3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset
34 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and
35 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and
36 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

37 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
38 necessity that personal identifying information of a person who
39 is employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a
40 public research facility, including a state university, that
41 conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to
42 animal research, be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida
43 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The
44 Legislature also finds that it is a public necessity that this
45 exemption apply to such personal identifying information held by
46 a public research facility, including a state university,
47 before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption. The
48 Legislature finds that the release of such personal identifying
49 information will place such persons in danger of threats and
50 harassment as well as physical and emotional harm from those who
51 advocate against such research. University employees have been
52 harassed and threatened after animal care records that included
53 their personal identifying information were disclosed pursuant
54 to public records requests. Thus, the Legislature finds that the
55 harm and threat to such persons' safety which results from the
56 release of personal identifying information in records about the
57 animals or about the animal research outweighs any public
58 benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the

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59 information. The public research facilities, including state
60 universities, remain responsible and accountable for the animal
61 research conducted at their institutions.

62 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.