

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 future legislative
7 review and repeal of the exemption; providing a
8 statement of public necessity; providing an 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. (1) Personal identifying information of a
14 person employed by or under contract with a public research
15 facility, including a state university, that conducts animal
16 research or is engaged in activities related to animal research,
17 is exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),
18 Article I of the State Constitution, when such information is
19 contained in the following records:

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

22 (b) Research protocols and approvals.

23 (c) Purchase and billing records related to animal
24 research or activities.

25 (d) Animal care and use committee records.

26 (e) Facility and laboratory records related to animal

27 research or activities.

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30 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and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

32 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
33 necessity that personal identifying information of a person who
34 is employed by or under contract with a public research
35 facility, including a state university, that conducts animal
36 research or is engaged in activities related to animal research,
37 be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s.
38 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature
39 finds that the release of such personal identifying information
40 will place such persons in danger of threats and harassment as
41 well as physical and emotional harm from those who advocate
42 against such research. University employees have been harassed
43 and threatened after animal care records that included their
44 personal identifying information were disclosed pursuant to
45 public records requests. Thus, the Legislature finds that the
46 harm and threat to such persons' safety that results from the
47 release of personal identifying information in records about the
48 animals or about the animal research outweighs any public
49 benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the
50 information. The public research facilities, including state
51 universities, remain responsible and accountable for the animal
52 research conducted at their institutions.

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