

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senators Altman and Dean

582-03675-16

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 97.0585, F.S., and reenacting subsection (3), relating
4 to a public records exemption for information
5 regarding voters and voter registration; providing an
6 exemption from public records requirements for
7 information concerning minor preregistered voter
8 registration applicants; providing for future
9 legislative review and repeal; providing for
10 retroactive application; providing a statement of
11 public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 97.0585, Florida
16 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) of that section is
17 reenacted, to read:

18 97.0585 Public records exemption; information regarding
19 voters and voter registration; confidentiality.—

20 (1) The following information held by an agency as defined
21 in s. 119.011, and obtained for the purpose of voter
22 registration, is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and
23 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and may be used only
24 for purposes of voter registration:

25 (a) All declinations to register to vote made pursuant to
26 ss. 97.057 and 97.058.

27 (b) Information relating to the place where a person
28 registered to vote or where a person updated a voter
29 registration.

30 (c) The social security number, driver license number, and
31 Florida identification number of a voter registration applicant

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32 or voter.

33 (d) All information concerning preregistered voter
34 registration applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age. This
35 paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in
36 accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2,
37 2021, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment
38 by the Legislature.

39 (3) This section applies to information held by an agency
40 before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

41 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
42 necessity that all information concerning preregistered voter
43 registration applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age which is
44 held by an agency, and obtained for the purpose of voter
45 registration, be confidential and exempt from public records
46 requirements and be used only for purposes of voter
47 registration. Information concerning preregistered 16-year-old
48 and 17-year-old voter registration applicants could be misused
49 if released. Minors are more vulnerable members of society, and
50 the widespread release of information acquired through
51 preregistration activities may be used to solicit, harass,
52 stalk, or intimidate such individuals. Without such protection,
53 a minor may be less likely to take advantage of preregistering
54 to vote, thus hindering the effective and efficient
55 administration of a program that otherwise encourages greater
56 participation in the democratic process.

57 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.