

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 83.626,
 3 F.S.; providing an exemption from public records
 4 requirements for certain information in court records
 5 of eviction proceedings; providing a statement of
 6 public necessity; providing a contingent effective
 7 date.

8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
 11 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 83.626,
 12 Florida Statutes, as created by HB 1193 or other similar
 13 legislation enacted in the 2021 Regular Session or an extension
 14 thereof, to read:

15 83.626 Court records of eviction proceedings; public
 16 records exemption.—

17 (6) A defendant's name that is removed from the progress
 18 docket pursuant to this section and any records sealed under
 19 this section are confidential and exempt from s. 24(a), Art. I
 20 of the State Constitution.

21 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
 22 necessity that certain court records and information relating to
 23 eviction proceedings be made exempt from s. 24(a), Article I of
 24 the State Constitution. Florida has the third-highest homeless
 25 population in the United States. Defendants in eviction

HB 1195

2021

26 | proceedings are frequently blacklisted by landlords and are
27 | unable to rent affordable housing, regardless of whether a
28 | judgment was ever entered against the defendant. This results in
29 | increased homelessness and negatively affects this state's
30 | economy and the public health of its residents. Therefore, it is
31 | necessary that certain court records and information relating to
32 | eviction proceedings be protected to ensure that the negative
33 | health and economic impacts of defendants being blacklisted from
34 | renting affordable housing are not exacerbated.

35 | Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
36 | that HB 1193, or similar legislation, takes effect, if such
37 | legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
38 | extension thereof and becomes a law.