

By Senator Jones

35-00889-21

20211748__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 83.626,
3 F.S.; exempting a defendant's name that has been
4 removed from the progress docket and certain sealed
5 records relating to eviction proceedings from public
6 records requirements; providing a statement of public
7 necessity; providing a contingent effective 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 SB ____, 2021 Regular Session, to
13 read:

14 83.626 Court records of eviction proceedings.—

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

19 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
20 necessity that certain court records and information relating to
21 eviction proceedings be made exempt from s. 24(a), Article I of
22 the State Constitution. Florida has the third-highest homeless
23 population in the United States. Defendants in eviction
24 proceedings are frequently blacklisted by landlords and unable
25 to find affordable housing, regardless of whether a judgment was
26 ever entered against the defendant. This results in increased
27 homelessness and negatively affects this state's economy and the
28 public health of its residents. Therefore, it is necessary that
29 certain court records and information relating to eviction

35-00889-21

20211748__

30 proceedings be protected to ensure that the negative health and
31 economic impacts of defendants being blacklisted from renting
32 housing are not exacerbated.

33 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that
34 SB ____ or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation
35 is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension
36 thereof and becomes a law.