

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
and Senator Burgess

585-03842-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 252.385, F.S.; creating an exemption from public
4 records requirements for the addresses and telephone
5 numbers of persons provided public emergency shelter
6 during a storm or catastrophic event and held by the
7 agency that provided the emergency shelter; providing
8 for future legislative review and repeal of the
9 exemption; providing a statement of public necessity;
10 providing 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. Subsection (5) is added to section 252.385,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 252.385 Public shelter space; public records exemption.—

17 (5) The address and telephone number of a person provided
18 public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic event
19 and held by the agency, as defined in s. 119.011, which provided
20 the emergency shelter is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),
21 Art. I of the State Constitution. This subsection is subject to
22 the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s.
23 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2026, unless
24 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
25 Legislature.

26 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
27 necessity that the address and telephone number of a person who
28 was provided public emergency shelter during a storm or other
29 catastrophic event be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida

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30 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.
31 Emergency shelters are made available to the public to provide a
32 safe place of accommodation before, during, and immediately
33 following storms or other catastrophic events. During these
34 emergency events, those affected are in a vulnerable state, as
35 they have voluntarily displaced themselves from their residences
36 and possessions to seek refuge. The information submitted to an
37 agency by such a person seeking emergency shelter during a storm
38 or other catastrophic event could be used by persons seeking to
39 take advantage of their vulnerability during or following the
40 emergency. In addition, those seeking emergency shelter for
41 their safety and the safety of their families should not be
42 forced to forfeit their privacy for the sake of such safety.
43 Therefore, the Legislature finds that the need to protect the
44 addresses and telephone numbers of individuals seeking emergency
45 shelter is sufficiently compelling to override this state's
46 public policy of open government and that the protection of such
47 information cannot be accomplished without this exemption.

48 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.