

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 943.0583, F.S.; providing that a petition for human
4 trafficking victim expungement and all pleadings and
5 documents related to the petition are confidential and
6 exempt from public records requirements; providing for
7 future legislative review and repeal of the exemption
8 under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; providing
9 a statement of public necessity; providing a
10 contingent 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 (12) is added to section 943.0583,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 943.0583 Human trafficking victim expunction.—

17 (12) (a) A petition filed under this section and all
18 pleadings and documents related to the petition are confidential
19 and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
20 Constitution.

21 (b) This subsection is subject to the Open Government
22 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand
23 repealed on October 2, 2026, unless reviewed and saved from
24 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

25 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public

26 | necessity that a petition filed under s. 943.0583, Florida
27 | Statutes, and all pleadings and documents related to the
28 | petition be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1),
29 | Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State
30 | Constitution. Persons who are victims of human trafficking and
31 | who have been convicted of crimes committed at the behest of
32 | their traffickers are themselves victims of crimes. Such victims
33 | face barriers to employment and other life opportunities and
34 | knowledge that they are seeking expungement and information that
35 | is contained in related pleadings and documents would expose
36 | petitioners to possible discrimination due to knowledge of their
37 | past lives. It is necessary that these petitions, pleadings, and
38 | related documents be made confidential in order for human
39 | trafficking victims to have the chance to rebuild their lives
40 | and reenter society.

41 | Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
42 | that HB 523 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
43 | legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
44 | extension thereof and becomes law.