

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
 3 741.301, F.S.; providing that all pleadings and
 4 documents related to a petition domestic violence
 5 injunction that have been ordered to be sealed are
 6 confidential and exempt from public records
 7 requirements; providing for future legislative review
 8 and repeal of the exemption under the Open Government
 9 Sunset Review Act; providing a statement of public
 10 necessity; providing a 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 (2) is added to s. 741.301, Florida
 15 Statutes, as created by HB 841, to read:

16 741.301 Sealing of domestic violence injunction petitions
 17 not granted.—

18 (2) (a) A petition, records, and documents that have been
 19 ordered sealed under subsection (1) and the petition for sealing
 20 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.
 21 I of the State Constitution.

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 24 repealed on October 2, 2026, unless reviewed and saved from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

26 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
27 necessity that petitions filed under ss. 741.30 and 741.301,
28 Florida Statutes, and all records and documents related to the
29 petitions be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1),
30 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State
31 Constitution unless the domestic violence petition was granted.
32 Persons who have been accused of domestic violence face barriers
33 to employment and other life opportunities and knowledge that
34 they were so accused, although no injunction was granted, would
35 expose them to possible discrimination and public obloquy. It is
36 necessary that these petitions and related documents be made
37 confidential in order for such petitioners to have the chance to
38 continue their lives without such consequences when no
39 injunction was ever issued.

40 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
41 that HB 841 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
42 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
43 extension thereof and becomes law.