Florida Senate - 2022 Bill No. SB 1304

House



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate . Comm: RCS . 01/31/2022 .

The Committee on Judiciary (Gruters) recommended the following: Senate Amendment Delete lines 19 - 61 and insert: <u>662.1465 Confidentiality of family trust company</u> proceedings and other filings.—In trust proceedings in which a family trust company, licensed family trust company, or foreign licensed family trust company is a party, the identities of those who establish, administer, or benefit from a trust and any information relating to the trust are confidential and exempt

11 from s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and must be

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12	protected in any court proceeding or filing related to the
13	trust. The court shall seal any document filed with the court in
14	a trust proceeding in which a family trust company, licensed
15	family trust company, or foreign licensed family trust company
16	is a party, including, but not limited to, the instrument on
17	which the trust is based; any petitions, briefs, or inventories;
18	any statement or report filed by a fiduciary; any court orders;
19	and any other document in the court case file. The court may not
20	release to the public any of the sealed documents or information
21	contained therein, but shall make them available to the
22	following individuals:
23	(1) The settlor.
24	(2) Any fiduciary for the trust.
25	(3) Any beneficiary of the trust.
26	(4) An attorney for the settlor, a fiduciary, or a
27	beneficiary of the trust.
28	(5) Any other person if, upon a showing of a specific
29	interest in the trust or a transaction relating to the trust or
30	an asset held or previously held by the trust, the court
31	determines there is a compelling need for releasing the
32	information requested.
33	Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
34	necessity that trust proceedings involving family trust
35	companies, licensed family trust companies, or foreign licensed
36	family trust companies be made confidential and exempt from s.
37	24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Public disclosure in
38	such trust proceedings of information relating to the clients,
39	family members, members, or stockholders of a family trust
40	company, licensed family trust company, or foreign licensed

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41	family trust company would vitiate other protections granted by
42	law to such companies and their constituents. In addition, such
43	trust proceedings often involve large sums of money or
44	vulnerable people who could be targeted for exploitation or
45	abuse. Public disclosure of sensitive family and financial
46	information in trust proceedings can result in specific harm to
47	beneficiaries and other interested parties in these cases.
48	Therefore, the Legislature finds that the need to protect the
49	identities of beneficiaries of trusts for which a family trust
50	company, licensed family trust company, or foreign licensed
51	family trust company is a trustee and the sensitive financial
52	information contained in