

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 expunction 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 under the Open
 8 Government Sunset Review Act; providing a statement of
 9 public necessity; providing a contingent effective
 10 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 23 repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from
 24 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

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

HB 1441

2022

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 arrested for offenses committed, or reported to
32 have been committed, as a result of being trafficked are
33 themselves victims of crimes. These victims face barriers to
34 employment and loss of other life opportunities, and the fact
35 that the victims are seeking expungement, as well as the
36 information contained in related pleadings and documents, would
37 expose these victims to possible discrimination due to details
38 of their past lives becoming public knowledge. Therefore, it is
39 necessary that these petitions, pleadings, and related documents
40 be made confidential in order for human trafficking victims to
41 have the chance to rebuild their lives and reenter society.

42 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
43 that HB 1439 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
44 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
45 extension thereof and becomes a law.