

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 823.15,
 3 F.S.; providing an exemption from public records
 4 requirements for records containing certain
 5 information pertaining to persons who have adopted an
 6 animal from an animal shelter or animal control agency
 7 operated by a local government; providing for future
 8 legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
 9 providing a statement of public necessity; providing
 10 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 (7) is added to section 823.15,
 15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 823.15 Public or private animal agencies; sterilization
 17 required for dogs and cats released; recordkeeping requirements;
 18 microchipping.—

19 (7) The name and e-mail addresses, as well as the home
 20 addresses and telephone numbers, as those terms are defined in
 21 s. 119.071(4)(d), of a person who has adopted an animal from an
 22 animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a county,
 23 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision on any
 24 record relating to the animal and held by the shelter or agency
 25 are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State

26 Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government
27 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand
28 repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from
29 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

30 Section 2. The Legislature finds that, as reflected in s.
31 823.15(1), Florida Statutes, it is an important public policy of
32 the state to encourage the adoption of animals and to reduce
33 euthanasia rates for animals in animal shelters and animal
34 control agencies. Although shelters and agencies are motivated
35 to find new homes for animals in their custody, adopters of
36 these animals may become discouraged from adopting if the prior
37 owners who lost or surrendered custody of those animals, or who
38 did not reclaim the animals within the applicable time periods,
39 obtain the identifying information of the adopters and attempt
40 to regain custody of the animal from the adopter. The
41 Legislature finds that the stalking, harassment, and
42 intimidation of animal adopters by prior animal owners, as well
43 as prior animal owners' theft of animals from animal adopters,
44 are threats to public safety and welfare and to the sanctity of
45 private property, the family, and the home. The Legislature
46 therefore finds that it is a public necessity that the name,
47 home addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of
48 persons who have adopted an animal from an animal shelter or
49 animal control agency operated by a county, municipality, or
50 incorporated political subdivision on any record relating to

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51 such animal and held by such shelter or agency be made exempt
52 from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art. I of the
53 State Constitution. The Legislature further finds that the need
54 to protect the names, home addresses, e-mail addresses, and
55 telephone numbers of animal adopters is sufficiently compelling
56 to override the state's public policy of open government and
57 that the protection of such information cannot be accomplished
58 without this exemption.

59 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.