

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
 3 16.7121, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
 4 records requirements for records containing personal
 5 identifying information of a person who is seeking
 6 assistance through the Compulsive and Addictive
 7 Gambling Prevention Program; providing for a future
 8 legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
 9 providing 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 (6) of section 16.7121, Florida
 15 Statutes, as created by HB 405, 2022 Regular Session, is
 16 renumbered as subsection (7) and a new subsection (6) is added
 17 to that section, to read:

18 16.7121 Compulsive and Addictive Gambling Prevention
 19 Program.-

20 (6) The personal identifying information of a person who
 21 is seeking assistance through the Compulsive and Addictive
 22 Gambling Prevention Program is confidential and exempt from the
 23 provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 24 Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government
 25 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand

26 repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from
27 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

28 Section 2. The Legislature finds that, as reflected in s.
29 16.7121(1), Florida Statutes, it is an important public policy
30 of the state to recognize and mitigate the adverse impact of
31 compulsive and addictive gambling behaviors. Even though such
32 behaviors impact many people throughout society, it is still
33 highly stigmatized. That social stigma prevents people from
34 taking steps to seek out information and resources that would
35 help them. In order to encourage people to seek assistance from
36 the Compulsive and Addictive Gambling Prevention Program, it is
37 important that their personal identifying information remains
38 confidential and exempt. The Legislature therefore finds that it
39 is a public necessity that the personal identifying information
40 of a person seeking assistance through the Compulsive and
41 Addictive Gambling Prevention Program be made exempt from s.
42 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
43 Constitution. The Legislature further finds that the need to
44 protect this information is sufficiently compelling to override
45 the state's public policy of open government and that the
46 protection of such information cannot be accomplished without
47 this exemption.

48 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
49 that HB 405 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
50 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an

HB 409

2022

51 | extension thereof and become a law.