1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to victims of crimes of sexual 3 violence or sexual exploitation; creating s. 960.31, 4 F.S.; defining terms; providing that a victim of any 5 crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation has 6 the right to prevent any person or entity from 7 disclosing or disseminating information or records 8 that might identify him or her as a victim of such 9 crimes; prohibiting a person or an entity in possession of information or records that might 10 11 identify an individual as a victim of a crime of 12 sexual violence or sexual exploitation from disclosing 13 or disseminating such information or records without 14 first obtaining the express written consent of the 15 victim; authorizing an aggrieved person to initiate a 16 civil action for an injunction against certain persons 17 or entities after following specified procedures; 18 providing that an aggrieved party who prevails in 19 seeking an injunction is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs; providing that specified 20 21 rights may be waived only by express action; providing 22 construction; providing applicability; providing an 23 effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Page 1 of 6

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Section 1. Section 960.31, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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960.31 Rights of victims of crimes of sexual violence or sexual exploitation.—

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(1) As used in this section, the term:

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(a) "Crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation" means any sexual offense prohibited by law under s. 787.06, chapter 794, chapter 796, chapter 800, or s. 827.071.

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(b) "Public proceeding" includes any public proceeding and is not limited to a criminal justice proceeding.

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(c) "School" includes any public or private K-12 school, college, or university.

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survivors of a crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation suffered as a minor. The term also includes a person who suffers

(d) "Victim" includes minors and adults, including adult

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as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation. The term also

direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm

includes the victim's lawful representative, the parent or

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guardian of a minor victim, and the next of kin of a homicide victim, except upon a showing that the interests of such

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individual would be in actual or potential conflict with the
interests of the victim. The term does not include the accused.

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The terms "crime" and "criminal" include delinquent acts and

Page 2 of 6

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conduct.

- (2) (a) A victim of any crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation has the right to prevent any person or entity from disclosing or disseminating information or records that might identify him or her as the victim of sexual violence or sexual exploitation to any member of the public, including in response to a public records request or in any public proceeding, in accordance with s. 16, Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (b) A person or an entity in possession of information or records that might identify an individual as a victim of a crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation may not disclose or disseminate such information or records without first obtaining the express written consent of the victim, including in response to a public records request or in any public proceeding, in accordance with s. 16, Art. I of the State Constitution.
- violence or sexual exploitation is deemed to have occurred at the moment the crime is committed, regardless of whether the accused perpetrator is identified, arrested, prosecuted, or convicted, and regardless of whether a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency confirms by probable cause that a crime occurred.
- (4) This section applies to any crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation reported by, or on behalf of, a victim.

 Such a crime is deemed reported if the victim, or someone acting

on the victim's behalf, reports the crime to any of the following:

- (a) A law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency, including a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency of a school.
- (b) A licensed medical provider or facility, including by seeking a sexual assault examination or any other medical care related to the crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation.
- (c) A mental health provider, including any crime victim counselor or victim advocate, or any school counseling service.
- (d) A school employee in a teaching or administrative position.
- (e) A school employee whose job functions include oversight of on-campus housing at any school.
- (5) A person aggrieved in violation of this section may initiate a civil action for an injunction against a person or an entity, excluding a public official, a public employee, or a public entity, to prevent or remedy further violation of this section.
- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (d), at least 5 business days before instituting such action, and as a condition precedent to such an action, the aggrieved person shall serve notice in writing on the intended defendant, specifying that the identity of the aggrieved person qualifies for protection under this section based on the criteria under subsection (4), without

the need to specify which criteria apply or provide any documentary proof.

- (b) In response to such notice, the recipient of the notice may avoid the civil action for injunction by certifying in writing to the aggrieved party all of the following:
- 1. An intent to thereafter maintain as confidential all information and records identifying the aggrieved person as the victim of a crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation;
- 2. Confirmation that the recipient of the notice has withdrawn from public access any such information or records that were previously exposed; and
- 3. That the recipient of the notice has informed in writing any persons or entities to whom the information and documents were previously disseminated that the victim's rights under this section apply and that the information and documents may not be further disseminated. Copies of any such notices under this subparagraph must be provided to the aggrieved person as part of the certification.
- (c) If the recipient of the notice timely provides written certification as provided in paragraph (b), the aggrieved person may not initiate an injunction proceeding unless at least one of the following applies:
- 1. The violation of this section was knowing and malicious and was committed with the intent to cause harm to the aggrieved party.

Page 5 of 6

2.	The	vic	olation	of	this	section	was	done	with	reckless
indiffer	ence	to	such h	arm				•		

- 3. The person or entity in violation of this section was the perpetrator of the crime of sexual violence or sexual exploitation or was otherwise legally responsible for the crime.
- (d) Paragraph (a) does not apply if the person or entity in violation of this section commits a new violation of this section after receiving notice in accordance with paragraph (a) for a previous violation.
- (e) In addition to injunctive relief, an aggrieved party who prevails in seeking an injunction under this subsection is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in enforcing rights under this section.
- (6) The remedies provided in this section are cumulative to other existing remedies.
- (7) The rights guaranteed under this section may be waived only by express action. An action by a victim may not be deemed an implicit waiver of his or her rights under this act.
- (8) This act does not apply in any case in which a law enforcement agency, after investigation, concludes that the reported crime was intentionally false.
- (9) The granting of the rights enumerated in this section to a victim may not be construed to deny or impair any other rights possessed by a victim.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Page 6 of 6

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