

20231210er

1  
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 an effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13 Section 1. Subsection (12) is added to section 943.0583,  
14 Florida Statutes, to read:

15 943.0583 Human trafficking victim expunction.—

16 (12) (a) A petition filed under this section and all  
17 pleadings and documents related to the petition are confidential  
18 and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
19 Constitution.

20 (b) This subsection is subject to the Open Government  
21 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and is repealed  
22 on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal  
23 through reenactment by the Legislature.

24 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
25 necessity that a petition filed under s. 943.0583, Florida  
26 Statutes, and all pleadings and documents related to the  
27 petition be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1),  
28 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State  
29 Constitution. Persons who are victims of human trafficking and

20231210er

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

42 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.