Bill No. HB 525 (2023)

Amendment No. 1

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE	ACTION
ADOPTED	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	(Y/N)
OTHER	

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Civil Justice Subcommittee Representative Arrington offered the following:

# Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 284-418 and insert:

6 and photographs of current county attorneys, assistant county

7 <u>attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant</u>

8 city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys; the names, home

9 addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and

10 places of employment of the spouses and children of current

11 <u>county attorneys</u>, assistant county attorneys, deputy county

12 attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy

13 <u>city attorneys; and the names and locations of schools and day</u>

14 <u>care facilities attended by the children of current county</u>

15 attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys,

16 <u>city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city</u>

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17 <u>attorneys are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of</u> 18 <u>the State Constitution. This exemption does not apply to a</u> 19 <u>county attorney, assistant county attorney, deputy county</u> 20 <u>attorney, city attorney, assistant city attorney, or deputy city</u> 21 <u>attorney who qualifies as a candidate for election to public</u> 22 <u>office.</u>

23 3. An agency that is the custodian of the information specified in subparagraph 2. and that is not the employer of the 24 25 officer, employee, justice, judge, or other person specified in 26 subparagraph 2. must maintain the exempt status of that information only if the officer, employee, justice, judge, other 27 person, or employing agency of the designated employee submits a 28 29 written and notarized request for maintenance of the exemption 30 to the custodial agency. The request must state under oath the 31 statutory basis for the individual's exemption request and 32 confirm the individual's status as a party eligible for exempt 33 status.

34 4.a. A county property appraiser, as defined in s. 35 192.001(3), or a county tax collector, as defined in s. 36 192.001(4), who receives a written and notarized request for 37 maintenance of the exemption pursuant to subparagraph 3. must comply by removing the name of the individual with exempt status 38 39 and the instrument number or Official Records book and page 40 number identifying the property with the exempt status from all publicly available records maintained by the property appraiser 41 722773 - h0525-line284.docx

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42 or tax collector. For written requests received on or before 43 July 1, 2021, a county property appraiser or county tax 44 collector must comply with this sub-subparagraph by October 1, 45 2021. A county property appraiser or county tax collector may 46 not remove the street address, legal description, or other 47 information identifying real property within the agency's 48 records so long as a name or personal information otherwise exempt from inspection and copying pursuant to this section are 49 50 not associated with the property or otherwise displayed in the 51 public records of the agency.

b. Any information restricted from public display,
inspection, or copying under sub-subparagraph a. must be
provided to the individual whose information was removed.

55 5. An officer, an employee, a justice, a judge, or other 56 person specified in subparagraph 2. may submit a written request 57 for the release of his or her exempt information to the 58 custodial agency. The written request must be notarized and must specify the information to be released and the party authorized 59 60 to receive the information. Upon receipt of the written request, 61 the custodial agency must release the specified information to the party authorized to receive such information. 62

6. The exemptions in this paragraph apply to information
64 held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the
65 exemption.

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66 7. Information made exempt under this paragraph may be 67 disclosed pursuant to s. 28.2221 to a title insurer authorized 68 pursuant to s. 624.401 and its affiliates as defined in s. 69 624.10; a title insurance agent or title insurance agency as 70 defined in s. 626.841(1) or (2), respectively; or an attorney 71 duly admitted to practice law in this state and in good standing 72 with The Florida Bar.

73 8. The exempt status of a home address contained in the 74 Official Records is maintained only during the period when a 75 protected party resides at the dwelling location. Upon 76 conveyance of real property after October 1, 2021, and when such 77 real property no longer constitutes a protected party's home 78 address as defined in sub-subparagraph 1.a., the protected party 79 must submit a written request to release the removed information 80 to the county recorder. The written request to release the 81 removed information must be notarized, must confirm that a 82 protected party's request for release is pursuant to a conveyance of his or her dwelling location, and must specify the 83 84 Official Records book and page, instrument number, or clerk's 85 file number for each document containing the information to be released. 86

9. Upon the death of a protected party as verified by a
certified copy of a death certificate or court order, any party
can request the county recorder to release a protected
decedent's removed information unless there is a related request
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91 on file with the county recorder for continued removal of the 92 decedent's information or unless such removal is otherwise 93 prohibited by statute or by court order. The written request to 94 release the removed information upon the death of a protected 95 party must attach the certified copy of a death certificate or 96 court order and must be notarized, must confirm the request for 97 release is due to the death of a protected party, and must specify the Official Records book and page number, instrument 98 99 number, or clerk's file number for each document containing the 100 information to be released. A fee may not be charged for the 101 release of any document pursuant to such request.

102 10. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government 103 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand 104 repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from 105 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

106 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public 107 necessity that the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of 108 birth, and photographs of current county attorneys, assistant 109 county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, 110 assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), 111 Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature further 112 113 finds that it is a public necessity that the names, home 114 addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children, and the names 115 722773 - h0525-line284.docx

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116 and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by 117 such children of current county attorneys, assistant county 118 attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys be made exempt from s. 119 120 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the 121 State Constitution. The responsibilities of county attorneys, 122 assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys 123 124 regularly involve legal enforcement proceedings in areas of neglect and abuse related to violations of codes and ordinances. 125 126 Legal enforcement proceedings have led to retribution and 127 threats by defendants and other persons on numerous occasions. 128 Such attorneys have received death threats and e-mails from 129 disgruntled persons advocating the murder of other attorneys. 130 Other incidents have included the stalking of such attorneys and 131 their spouses and children. The Legislature finds that the 132 release of such personal identifying and location information 133 could place such attorneys and their spouses and children in 134 danger of being physically and emotionally harmed or stalked by 135 a defendant or other person. The Legislature finds that the harm that may result from the release of such personal identifying 136 137 and location information outweighs any public benefit that may 138 be derived from the disclosure of the information, except in the 139 case of a current county attorney, assistant county attorney, 140 deputy county attorney, 722773 - h0525 - line 284.docx

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41	
42	
43	TITLE AMENDMENT
44	Remove lines 5-6 and insert:
45	location information of current county attorneys, assistant
46	county attorneys, deputy county
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