

HB 7025

2023

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
3 1002.42, F.S.; providing a public records exemption
4 for information pertaining to a safe-school officer at
5 a private school; providing for future legislative
6 review and repeal of the exemption; providing a
7 statement of public necessity; providing a contingent
8 effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (18) of
13 section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, as created by HB 543 or
14 similar legislation, 2023 Regular Session, to read:

15 1002.42 Private schools.—

16 (18) SAFE SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

17 (c) Any information that may identify whether a particular
18 individual has been assigned as a safe-school officer pursuant
19 to s. 1006.12 at a private school and that is held by a law
20 enforcement agency is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),
21 Art. I of the State Constitution. This paragraph is subject to
22 the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s.
23 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless
24 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
25 Legislature.

26 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
27 necessity that any information that may identify whether a
28 particular individual has been assigned as a safe-school officer
29 at a private school and that is held by a law enforcement agency
30 be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s.
31 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. School security and
32 student safety are fundamental priorities in this state. Private
33 schools should be provided options for a security presence
34 similar to that established for school districts. To maximize
35 the effectiveness of the presence of safe-school officers as a
36 deterrent and in their role as first responders to incidents
37 threatening the lives of students and school staff, safe-school
38 officers may perform their school-related duties while carrying
39 a weapon. Disclosure of the identity of a safe-school officer
40 may affect his or her ability to adequately respond to an active
41 assailant situation. Accordingly, it is necessary to protect the
42 identity of safe-school officers from public records
43 requirements in order to effectively and efficiently implement
44 the purpose and intent of the program. Such personal identifying
45 information of an individual assigned as a safe-school officer
46 which is held by a law enforcement agency or public school is
47 currently exempt from public records requirements.

48 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date
49 that HB 543 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
50 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an

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51 | extension thereof and becomes a law.