

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 23

2024 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to public records; creating s. 16.64,  
 3 F.S.; providing an exemption from public records  
 4 requirements for the personal identifying information  
 5 in an application submitted to the Department of Legal  
 6 Affairs by a person seeking compensation through the  
 7 Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim  
 8 Compensation Program; providing exceptions; providing  
 9 for future legislative review and repeal of the  
 10 exemption; providing a statement of public necessity;  
 11 providing a contingent effective date.

12

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

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15 Section 1. Section 16.64, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 16 read:

17 16.64 Applications for compensation through the Dozier  
 18 School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation  
 19 Program; public records exemption.—

20 (1) Any names, dates of birth, driver license numbers,  
 21 home addresses, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, or  
 22 electronic mail addresses in an application submitted to the  
 23 Department of Legal Affairs by a person seeking compensation  
 24 through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim  
 25 Compensation Program is confidential and exempt from s.

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26 | 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.

27 | (2) The information made confidential and exempt under  
28 | subsection (1) may be released to the Department of Education  
29 | for the purpose of facilitating the award of standard high  
30 | school diplomas to persons compensated through the Dozier School  
31 | for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program in  
32 | accordance with law.

33 | (3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset  
34 | Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed  
35 | on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal  
36 | through reenactment by the Legislature.

37 | Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
38 | necessity that any names, dates of birth, driver license  
39 | numbers, home addresses, mailing addresses, telephone numbers,  
40 | or electronic mail addresses in an application submitted to the  
41 | Department of Legal Affairs by a person seeking compensation  
42 | through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim  
43 | Compensation Program be made confidential and exempt from s.  
44 | 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the  
45 | State Constitution. The Legislature finds that the release of  
46 | such personal identifying information could subject the persons  
47 | applying for compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and  
48 | Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program to the possibility  
49 | of harassment and to further trauma should their status as a  
50 | victim of the Dozier School for Boys or the Okeechobee School,

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51 or the nature of the abuse each victim suffered there, be made  
52 public. The Legislature further finds that a victim of the  
53 Dozier School for Boys or the Okeechobee School may be more  
54 likely to come forward and apply for compensation through the  
55 Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation  
56 Program if the personal identifying information in the  
57 application is protected from public disclosure. The Legislature  
58 finds that the harm that may result from the release of such  
59 information outweighs the public benefit that may be derived  
60 from the disclosure of such information.

61 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date  
62 that CS/HB 21 or similar legislation takes effect, if such  
63 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an  
64 extension thereof and becomes a law.