

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to public records; amending s. 823.15,  
 3           F.S.; providing an exemption from public records  
 4           requirements for records containing certain  
 5           information pertaining to persons with legal custody  
 6           of an animal from an animal shelter or animal control  
 7           agency operated by a local government; providing for  
 8           future legislative review and repeal of the exemption;  
 9           providing a statement of public necessity; providing  
 10          an effective date.

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

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 14          Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 823.15,  
 15          Florida Statutes, to read:

16                823.15 Public or private animal agencies; sterilization  
 17                required for dogs and cats released; recordkeeping requirements;  
 18                microchipping; public records exemption.-

19                (7) Personal identifying information of a person who  
 20                fosters, adopts, or otherwise receives legal custody of an  
 21                animal from an animal shelter or animal control agency operated  
 22                by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political  
 23                subdivision held by the shelter or agency is exempt from s.  
 24                119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This  
 25                subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act

26 in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October  
27 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through  
28 reenactment by the Legislature.

29       Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
30 necessity that the personal identifying information of a person  
31 who fosters, adopts, or otherwise receives legal custody of an  
32 animal from an animal shelter or animal control agency operated  
33 by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political  
34 subdivision held by the shelter or agency be made exempt from s.  
35 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
36 Constitution. The Legislature finds that, as reflected in s.  
37 823.15(1), Florida Statutes, it is an important public policy of  
38 the state to encourage the fostering, adoption, or receipt of  
39 animals and to reduce euthanasia rates for animals in animal  
40 shelters and animal control agencies. Although such shelters and  
41 agencies are motivated to find new homes or placements for  
42 animals in their custody, potential fosterers, adopters, and  
43 other persons considering receiving legal custody of animals may  
44 become discouraged from fostering, adopting, or receiving legal  
45 custody of the animals if the prior owners who lost or  
46 surrendered legal custody of the animals, or who did not reclaim  
47 the animals within the applicable time periods, can obtain their  
48 personal identifying information and attempt to regain legal  
49 custody of the animals from such persons through stalking,  
50 harassment, or intimidation. As such, the release of such

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51 personal identifying information may jeopardize the safety of  
52 animal fosterers, adopters, and other persons receiving legal  
53 custody of animals and may have a chilling effect on the  
54 recruitment of persons to adopt, foster, or otherwise receive  
55 legal custody of animals from an animal shelter or animal  
56 control agency.

57 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.