

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 273

2024 Legislature

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 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 humane society or a local
 8 government; providing for future legislative review
 9 and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of
 10 public necessity; providing an effective date.

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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 humane society or a county, municipality, or other
 23 incorporated political subdivision held by the shelter or agency
 24 is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 25 Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government

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26 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand
27 repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from
28 repeal through 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 humane society or a county, municipality, or other
34 incorporated political subdivision held by the shelter or agency
35 be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s.
36 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The Legislature finds
37 that, as reflected in s. 823.15(1), Florida Statutes, it is an
38 important public policy of the state to encourage the fostering,
39 adoption, or receipt of animals and to reduce euthanasia rates
40 for animals in animal shelters and animal control agencies.
41 Although such shelters and agencies are motivated to find new
42 homes or placements for animals in their custody, potential
43 fosterers, adopters, and other persons considering receiving
44 legal custody of animals may become discouraged from fostering,
45 adopting, or receiving legal custody of the animals if the prior
46 owners who lost or surrendered legal custody of the animals, or
47 who did not reclaim the animals within the applicable time
48 periods, can obtain their personal identifying information and
49 attempt to regain legal custody of the animals from such persons
50 through stalking, harassment, or intimidation. As such, the

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

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