

By the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice

604-03134-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 741.29,
3 F.S.; providing a public records exemption for certain
4 information pertaining to a lethality assessment
5 administered by a trained law enforcement officer;
6 providing for future legislative review and repeal of
7 the exemption; providing a statement of public
8 necessity; providing a contingent 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 (g) is added to subsection (2) of
13 section 741.29, Florida Statutes, as created by SB 638, 2024
14 Regular Session, to read:

15 741.29 Domestic violence; investigation of incidents;
16 notice to victims of legal rights and remedies; reporting.—

17 (2) The department shall consult with the Department of
18 Children and Families and at least one domestic violence
19 advocacy organization to develop the policies, procedures, and
20 training necessary for implementation of a statewide evidence-
21 based lethality assessment. Training on how to administer a
22 lethality assessment must be accessible to a law enforcement
23 officer in an online format.

24 (g) A lethality assessment form that contains a victim's
25 information and responses to the lethality assessment is
26 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
27 of the State Constitution. This paragraph is subject to the Open
28 Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and
29 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and

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30 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

31 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
32 necessity that a lethality assessment form that contains a
33 victim's information and responses to the lethality assessment
34 be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida
35 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The
36 Legislature finds that the release of information included on a
37 lethality assessment form could subject victims of domestic
38 violence to an increased risk of abuse. Such information
39 contained on a lethality assessment form is sensitive in nature.
40 The Legislature further finds that such victims are more likely
41 to participate in a lethality assessment if such form is
42 protected from public disclosure. The Legislature finds that the
43 harm that may result from the release of such information
44 outweighs the public benefit that may be derived from the
45 disclosure of the information.

46 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that
47 SB 638 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation
48 is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension
49 thereof and becomes a law.