

By Senator Martin

33-00865-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records; creating s.
3 215.5587, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
4 records requirements for applications and home
5 inspection reports submitted by applicants to the
6 Department of Financial Services as a part of the My
7 Safe Florida Home Program; providing retroactive
8 applicability; 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. Section 215.5587, Florida Statutes, is created
15 to read:

16 215.5587 My Safe Florida Home Program; public records
17 exemption.—

18 (1) Applications and home inspection reports submitted by
19 applicants as part of the My Safe Florida Home Program under s.
20 215.5586 are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of
21 the State Constitution.

22 (2) This exemption applies retroactively to applications
23 and home inspection reports submitted before, on, or after the
24 effective date of this exemption.

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26 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed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

29 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public

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30 necessity that My Safe Florida Home Program applications and
31 home inspection reports be made exempt from s. 119.07(1),
32 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State
33 Constitution. More than 99 percent of all home inspections and
34 grant applications are completed electronically or by phone.
35 Under current law, My Safe Florida Home Program applications and
36 home inspection reports are public records and can be obtained
37 by anyone for any purpose. These documents contain personal
38 information, including, but not limited to, names, e-mail
39 addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers. This
40 information is unique to each individual and, when combined with
41 other personal identifying information, can be used for identity
42 theft, consumer scams, unwanted solicitations, or other invasive
43 contact. Additionally, the My Safe Florida Home Program
44 applications and home inspection reports contain detailed
45 descriptions and pictures of the inside and outside of
46 applicants' homes, including private areas, points of entry, and
47 other vulnerabilities. The public availability of these records
48 puts participants in the My Safe Florida Home Program at
49 increased risk of home invasions and reduces privacy in their
50 homes. Such risk may be significantly limited by making My Safe
51 Florida Home Program applications and home inspection reports
52 exempt.

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