

By the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and Senator Martin

597-02595-24

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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 certain information contained
5 in applications and home inspection reports submitted
6 by applicants to the Department of Financial Services
7 as a part of the My Safe Florida Home Program;
8 providing retroactive applicability; providing for
9 future legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
10 providing a statement of public necessity; providing
11 an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Section 215.5587, Florida Statutes, is created
16 to read:

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

19 (1) All of the following information contained in
20 applications and home inspection reports submitted by applicants
21 as part of the My Safe Florida Home Program under s. 215.5586 is
22 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
23 Constitution:

24 (a) The components of the applicant's mailing address other
25 than the city, zip code, and the applicant's name.

26 (b) Any phone number or e-mail address provided by the
27 applicant.

28 (c) Detailed descriptions and pictures of the inside and
29 outside of applicant's homes.

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

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34 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed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 My Safe Florida Home Program applications and
39 home inspection reports be made exempt from s. 119.07(1),
40 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State
41 Constitution. More than 99 percent of all home inspections and
42 grant applications are completed electronically or by phone.
43 Under current law, My Safe Florida Home Program applications and
44 home inspection reports are public records and can be obtained
45 by anyone for any purpose. These documents contain personal
46 information, including, but not limited to, e-mail addresses,
47 mailing addresses, and telephone numbers. This information is
48 unique to each individual and, when combined with other personal
49 identifying information, can be used for identity theft,
50 consumer scams, unwanted solicitations, or other invasive
51 contact. Additionally, the My Safe Florida Home Program
52 applications and home inspection reports contain detailed
53 descriptions and pictures of the inside and outside of
54 applicants' homes, including private areas, points of entry, and
55 other vulnerabilities. The public availability of these records
56 puts participants in the My Safe Florida Home Program at
57 increased risk of home invasions and reduces privacy in their
58 homes. Such risk may be significantly limited by making My Safe

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59 Florida Home Program applications and home inspection reports
60 exempt.

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