

By Senator Martin

33-01528-25

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to protective services for certain  
3       victims and witnesses; amending s. 914.25, F.S.;  
4       revising the definition of the term "serious felony  
5       offense"; reenacting ss. 914.27(1), (2), and (5) and  
6       943.031(8)(c), F.S., relating to the confidentiality  
7       of victim and witness information and the Victim and  
8       Witness Protection Review Committee, respectively, to  
9       incorporate the amendment made to s. 914.25, F.S., in  
10       references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

13  
14       Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
15       914.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16       914.25 Protective services for certain victims and  
17       witnesses.—

18       (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

19       (b) "Serious felony offense" means one of the following  
20       offenses, including an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to  
21       commit one of the following offenses: murder, manslaughter,  
22       sexual battery, aggravated stalking, aggravated battery,  
23       carjacking, home invasion robbery, burglary, arson, robbery,  
24       kidnapping, racketeering, ~~or~~ trafficking in a controlled  
25       substance, battery by strangulation, human smuggling, human  
26       trafficking, or any other felony that involves the use or threat  
27       of physical force or violence against any individual.

28       Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
29       made by this act to section 914.25, Florida Statutes, in

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30 references thereto, subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section  
31 914.27, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

32 914.27 Confidentiality of victim and witness information.—

33 (1) Information held by any state or local law enforcement  
34 agency, state attorney, the statewide prosecutor, the Victim and  
35 Witness Protection Review Committee created pursuant to s.

36 943.031, or the Department of Law Enforcement which discloses:

37 (a) The identity or location of a victim or witness who has  
38 been identified or certified for protective or relocation  
39 services pursuant to s. 914.25;

40 (b) The identity or location of an immediate family member  
41 of a victim or witness who has been identified or certified  
42 pursuant to s. 914.25;

43 (c) Relocation sites, techniques, or procedures utilized or  
44 developed as a result of the victim and witness protective  
45 services afforded by s. 914.25; or

46 (d) The identity or relocation site of any victim, witness,  
47 or immediate family member of a victim or witness who has made a  
48 relocation of permanent residence by reason of the victim's or  
49 witness's involvement in the investigation or prosecution giving  
50 rise to certification for protective or relocation services  
51 pursuant to s. 914.25;

52  
53 is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
54 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such information  
55 may be shared by law enforcement agencies, state attorneys, and  
56 the statewide prosecutor to facilitate the protective or  
57 relocation services provided pursuant to s. 914.25 and to  
58 support the prosecution efforts of the state attorneys and the

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59 statewide prosecutor. Any information so shared must remain  
60 confidential and exempt in the hands of any agency or entity to  
61 which the information is provided.

62 (2) If a victim or witness is identified for protective  
63 services under s. 914.25 and is later denied certification, the  
64 identity and location information exempt pursuant to paragraphs  
65 (1)(a) and (b) becomes public information, unless otherwise  
66 provided by law.

67 (5) For the purposes of effectively implementing s. 914.25,  
68 any state or local law enforcement agency, state attorney, or  
69 the statewide prosecutor may provide written notification to an  
70 agency as defined in s. 119.011 or to a business entity  
71 operating under contract with, licensed by, or having any other  
72 business relationship with an agency, or providing services  
73 pursuant to s. 914.25, that information described in subsection  
74 (1) held by that agency or business is confidential and exempt  
75 from public disclosure. The state or local law enforcement  
76 agency, state attorney, or the statewide prosecutor providing  
77 such written notification shall also provide written  
78 notification to the agency or business as to when, in accordance  
79 with this section, identity and location information exempted  
80 pursuant to paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) can be made publicly  
81 available.

82 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
83 made by this act to section 914.25, Florida Statutes, in a  
84 reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section  
85 943.031, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

86 943.031 Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.—

87 (8) VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE.—

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88 (c) The lead law enforcement agency providing victim or  
89 witness protective or temporary relocation services pursuant to  
90 the provisions of s. 914.25 may submit a request for  
91 reimbursement to the Victim and Witness Protection Review  
92 Committee in a format approved by the committee. The lead law  
93 enforcement agency shall submit such reimbursement request on  
94 behalf of all law enforcement agencies that cooperated in  
95 providing protective or temporary relocation services related to  
96 a particular criminal investigation or prosecution. As part of  
97 the reimbursement request, the lead law enforcement agency must  
98 indicate how any reimbursement proceeds will be distributed  
99 among the agencies that provided protective or temporary  
100 relocation services.

101 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.