

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; creating s. 23.46,
 3 F.S.; exempting from public records requirements
 4 certain personal identifying information provided to
 5 the Hope Florida Office or Hope Navigators by
 6 participants; providing exceptions; requiring persons
 7 who receive access to such information to maintain the
 8 confidential and exempt status of such information;
 9 providing criminal penalties; providing for future
 10 legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
 11 providing a statement of public necessity; providing a
 12 contingent effective date.

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

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 16 **Section 1. Section 23.46, Florida Statutes, is created to**
 17 **read:**

18 23.46 Exempt information.—
 19 (1) In order to protect the privacy and rights of
 20 individuals participating in Hope Florida, the personal
 21 identifying information provided to the Hope Florida Office by
 22 an individual, as well as the personal identifying information
 23 provided by an individual to a Hope Navigator, is confidential
 24 and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 25 Constitution.

26 (2) The Hope Florida Office shall allow access to
27 confidential and exempt information in the Hope Florida case
28 management system:

29 (a) To an employee of a participating state agency for
30 purposes of periodic reporting or disclosure of information that
31 has been redacted to exclude personal identifying information.

32 (b) At the direction of the Governor or the Hope Florida
33 partner network.

34 (c) An employee of the Hope Florida Office for purposes of
35 approving or disapproving a request for additional assistance
36 within the purview of Hope Florida.

37 (3) All information released by the office under
38 subsection (2) remains confidential and exempt, and a person who
39 receives access to such information must maintain the
40 confidential and exempt status of the information received.

41 (4) A person who willfully and knowingly violates this
42 section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as
43 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

44 (5) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset
45 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed
46 on October 2, 2030, unless reviewed and saved from repeal
47 through reenactment by the Legislature.

48 **Section 2.** The Legislature finds that it is a public
49 necessity to make the personal identifying information of Hope
50 Florida participants contained in records held by the Office of

51 Hope Florida and any other state agency participating in the
52 Hope Florida program confidential and exempt from public records
53 requirements. In fulfilling the program's mission, the Hope
54 Florida program collects personal identifying information
55 regarding program participants in order to assist and serve
56 residents of this state who are often in vulnerable situations
57 and subject to abuse or exploitation. Allowing the public
58 unfettered access to participant data could impair the effective
59 and efficient administration of the program and otherwise
60 discourage individuals and families from seeking support through
61 Hope Florida's resources.

62 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect on the same date
63 that HB 1327 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
64 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
65 extension thereof and becomes a law.