

By Senator Berman

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to public records and public meetings;  
3           amending s. 741.317, F.S.; specifying that information  
4           obtained by the Helping Abuse Victims Escape Now  
5           (HAVEN) Coordinating Council which is exempt or  
6           confidential and exempt from public records  
7           requirements retains its protected status; providing  
8           an exemption from public records requirements for  
9           personal identifying information of a victim of  
10          domestic violence and dating violence and other  
11          specified information contained in records held by the  
12          coordinating council; providing an exemption from  
13          public meetings requirements for portions of the  
14          coordinating council's meetings during which exempt or  
15          confidential and exempt information is discussed;  
16          providing statements of public necessity; providing a  
17          contingent effective date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21           Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 741.317, Florida  
22           Statutes, as created by SB 240 or similar legislation, 2025  
23           Regular Session, is renumbered as subsection (10), and a new  
24           subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

25           741.317 Helping Abuse Victims Escape Now Act; coordinating  
26           council; membership; duties; reports; funding; preemption;  
27           confidentiality.—

28           (9) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

29           (a)1. Any information that is exempt or confidential and

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30 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
31 Constitution and is obtained by the HAVEN Coordinating Council  
32 while executing its duties under this section retains its exempt  
33 or confidential and exempt status when held by the council.

34 2. Any information contained in a record created by the  
35 coordinating council which reveals the identity of a victim of  
36 domestic violence or dating violence is confidential and exempt  
37 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
38 Constitution.

39 3. Any information that is maintained as exempt or  
40 confidential and exempt within this chapter retains its exempt  
41 or confidential and exempt status when held by the coordinating  
42 council.

43 (b) Portions of meetings of the coordinating council  
44 relating to the physical injury or death of a victim of domestic  
45 violence or dating violence, and the prevention of such physical  
46 injury or death, during which exempt or confidential and exempt  
47 information, information protected within this chapter, the  
48 identity of the victim, or the identity of persons responsible  
49 for the welfare of the victim is discussed, are exempt from s.  
50 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.

51 Section 2. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public  
52 necessity that information that is exempt or confidential and  
53 exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),  
54 Article I of the State Constitution remains exempt or  
55 confidential and exempt when held by the Helping Abuse Victims  
56 Escape Now Coordinating Council. Additionally, the Legislature  
57 finds that it is a public necessity that information that  
58 reveals the identity of a victim of domestic violence or dating

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59 violence or the identity of persons responsible for the welfare  
60 of such victim be confidential and exempt from public records  
61 requirements because the disclosure of such sensitive personal  
62 identifying information could impede the open communication and  
63 coordination among the parties involved in the coordinating  
64 council. The harm that would result from the release of such  
65 information substantially outweighs any public benefit that  
66 would be achieved by disclosure.

67 (2) The Legislature further finds that it is a public  
68 necessity that portions of meetings of the coordinating council  
69 during which exempt or confidential and exempt information,  
70 information protected within chapter 741, Florida Statutes, the  
71 identity of the victim, or the identity of persons responsible  
72 for the welfare of the victim is discussed are exempt from s.  
73 286.011, Florida Statutes, and s. 24(b), Article I of the State  
74 Constitution. Failure to close the portions of the meetings in  
75 which such sensitive personal identifying information is  
76 discussed would defeat the purpose of the public records  
77 exemption. Further, the Legislature finds that the exemption is  
78 narrowly tailored to apply only to those portions of the  
79 meetings in which such sensitive personal identifying  
80 information is discussed and that the remainder of such meetings  
81 remain open to allow for public oversight.

82 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that  
83 SB 240 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation  
84 is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension  
85 thereof and becomes a law.