

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 Act
 5 Coordinating Council which is exempt or confidential
 6 and exempt from public records requirements retains
 7 its protected status; providing an exemption from
 8 public records requirements for personal identifying
 9 information of a victim of domestic violence and
 10 dating violence and other specified information
 11 contained in records held by the coordi nating
 12 council; providing an exemption from public meetings
 13 requirements for portions of the coordinating
 14 council's meetings during which exempt or confidential
 15 and exempt information is discussed; providing
 16 statements of public necessity; providing a contingent
 17 effective date.

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 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 HB 19 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
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 shall retain its
33 | exempt or confidential and exempt status when held by the
34 | council.

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

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

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

51 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.

52 **Section 2.** (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public
53 necessity that information that is exempt or confidential and
54 exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),
55 Article I of the State Constitution remains exempt or
56 confidential and exempt when held by the Helping Abuse Victims
57 Escape Now Coordinating Council. Additionally, the Legislature
58 finds that it is a public necessity that information that
59 reveals the identity of a victim of domestic violence or dating
60 violence or the identity of persons responsible for the welfare
61 of such victim be confidential and exempt from public records
62 requirements because the disclosure of such sensitive personal
63 identifying information could impede the open communication and
64 coordination among the parties involved in the coordinating
65 council. The harm that would result from the release of such
66 information substantially outweighs any public benefit that
67 would be achieved by disclosure.

68 (2) The Legislature further finds that it is a public
69 necessity that portions of meetings of the coordinating council
70 during which exempt or confidential and exempt information,
71 information protected within chapter 741, the identity of the
72 victim, or the identity of persons responsible for the welfare
73 of the victim is discussed, are exempt from s. 286.011, Florida
74 Statutes, and s. 24(b), Article I of the State Constitution.
75 Failure to close the portions of the meetings in which such

76 sensitive personal identifying information is discussed would
77 defeat the purpose of the public records exemption. Further, the
78 Legislature finds that the exemption is narrowly tailored to
79 apply only to those portions of the meetings in which such
80 sensitive personal identifying information is discussed and the
81 remainder of such meetings remain open to allow for public
82 oversight.

83 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect on the same date
84 that HB 19 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
85 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
86 extension thereof and becomes law.