

**By** Senator Rodriguez

40-01594-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; amending s. 11.92, F.S.; providing a public records exemption for correspondence and communications with the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman and the Corrections Oversight Committee; providing a statement of public necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (8) through (10) of section 11.92, Florida Statutes, as created by SB \_\_\_, 2026 Regular Session, are renumbered as subsections (9) through (11), respectively, and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

## 11.92 Office of the Corrections Ombudsman.—

(8) Correspondence and communications between incarcerated persons or the public and the office, the Ombudsman, the members of the committee, and office staff are confidential and exempt from s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that correspondence and communications with the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman and the Corrections Oversight Committee be made confidential and exempt from s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Public disclosure of such correspondence and communications could jeopardize the safety of incarcerated persons. It is essential to the functioning of the office that incarcerated persons and the public feel free to communicate with the office concerning conditions in and operations of correctional facilities. The public records

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30 exemption is necessary to protect incarcerated persons from  
31 retaliation by correctional officers who are under investigation  
32 as a result of communications with the office.

33       Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that  
34 SB \_\_\_\_ or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation  
35 is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension  
36 thereof and becomes a law.