

CS/HB 181

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public records; amending s.
539.003, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
records requirements for records relating to
pawnbroker transactions that are delivered to the
Department of Law Enforcement; providing for future
legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
providing a statement of public necessity; providing a
contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 539.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

539.003 Confidentiality.—All records relating to pawnbroker transactions delivered to appropriate law enforcement officials and the Department of Law Enforcement pursuant to s. 539.001 are confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and may be used only for official law enforcement purposes. This section does not prohibit the disclosure by the appropriate law enforcement officials or the Department of Law Enforcement of the name and address of the pawnbroker, the name and address of the conveying customer, or a description of pawned property to the alleged owner of pawned property.

26 **Section 2.** The amendments to s. 539.003, Florida Statutes,
27 made by this act are subject to the Open Government Sunset
28 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and
29 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and
30 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If
31 such amendments are not saved from repeal, the text of s.
32 539.003, Florida Statutes, shall revert to that in existence on
33 June 30, 2026, except that any amendments to such text enacted
34 other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to
35 operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent
36 upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

37 **Section 3.** The Legislature finds that it is a public
38 necessity that records related to pawnbroker transactions that
39 are delivered to the Department of Law Enforcement be made
40 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and
41 s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature
42 previously found that identical records related to pawnbroker
43 transactions which are delivered to appropriate law enforcement
44 officials under s. 539.001, Florida Statutes, contain
45 information of a sensitive and personal nature to the pledgor or
46 seller of pledged goods and thus made such records confidential
47 and exempt from disclosure under s. 539.003, Florida Statutes.
48 The Legislature finds that requiring pawnbroker transaction
49 records to be delivered to the Department of Law Enforcement
50 does not change the sensitive and personal nature of such

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51 records and, therefore, finds that such records must be made
52 confidential and exempt from public records requirements.

53 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect on the same date
54 that HB 1345 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
55 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
56 extension thereof and becomes a law.