

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to public records; amending s.  
3       539.003, F.S.; providing an exemption from public  
4       records requirements for records relating to  
5       pawnbroker transactions that are delivered to the  
6       Department of Law Enforcement; providing for future  
7       legislative review and repeal of the exemption;  
8       providing a statement of public necessity; providing a  
9       contingent effective date.

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

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

15       539.003 Confidentiality.—All records relating to  
16   pawnbroker transactions delivered to appropriate law enforcement  
17   officials and the Department of Law Enforcement pursuant to s.  
18   539.001 are confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s.  
19   119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and may  
20   be used only for official law enforcement purposes. This section  
21   does not prohibit the disclosure by the appropriate law  
22   enforcement officials or the Department of Law Enforcement of  
23   the name and address of the pawnbroker, the name and address of  
24   the conveying customer, or a description of pawned property to  
25   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29 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and  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

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.