

CS/HB 21

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.071, F.S.; providing definitions; providing an exemption from public record requirements for certain identifying and location information of current or former agency employees and the spouses and children of such employees; providing for retroactive application; specifying that the exemption does not limit certain existing exemptions; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; amending ss. 28.2221, 119.0714, 409.2577, and 744.21031, F.S.; conforming cross-references to changes made by the act; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (4) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (e) and (f), respectively, and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection to read:

119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.—

(4) AGENCY PERSONNEL INFORMATION.—

(d) 1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

26 a. "Home addresses" means the dwelling location at which
27 an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing
28 address, and street address.

29 b. "Telephone numbers" includes home telephone numbers,
30 personal cellular telephone numbers, personal pager telephone
31 numbers, and telephone numbers associated with personal
32 communications devices.

33 2. The home addresses, telephone numbers, personal
34 electronic mail addresses, and dates of birth of current or
35 former agency employees; the names, home addresses, telephone
36 numbers, personal electronic mail addresses, dates of birth, and
37 places of employment of the spouses and children of such
38 employees; and the names and locations of schools and day care
39 facilities attended by the children of such employees held by
40 the employing agency are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),
41 Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption applies to such
42 information held by an employing agency before, on, or after the
43 effective date of this exemption.

44 3. The exemption provided in subparagraph 2. does not
45 limit any exemption contained in paragraph (e).

46 4. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset
47 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed
48 on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal
49 through reenactment by the Legislature.

50 **Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph**

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51 **(b) of subsection (6) of section 28.2221, Florida Statutes, are**
52 **amended to read:**

53 28.2221 Electronic access to official records.—

54 (2)

55 (b) Unless otherwise required by the court, a county
56 recorder may not remove the grantor name, grantee name, or party
57 name from the register of the Official Records, as described in
58 s. 28.222(2), and the index on the publicly available Internet
59 website on the basis of an exemption as defined in s. 119.011
60 unless the name of the grantor or grantee includes the street
61 address portion of the home address as defined in s.
62 119.071(4)(e) ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)~~, in which case the county
63 recorder must remove the street address portion from display.
64 Home addresses, as defined in s. 119.071(4)(e) ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)~~,
65 which are exempt from inspection or copying under s. 119.071
66 must be included within the Official Records as described in s.
67 28.222(2) but may not be included within the index or otherwise
68 displayed on the county recorder's publicly available Internet
69 website on which images or copies of the county's official
70 records are placed.

71 (6)

72 (b)1. For the purpose of conducting a title search, as
73 defined in s. 627.7711(4), of the Official Records, as described
74 in s. 28.222(2), and upon presentation of photo identification
75 and affirmation by sworn affidavit consistent with s. 92.50 to

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76 the county recorder, information restricted from public display,
77 inspection, or copying under paragraph (5)(a) pursuant to a
78 request for removal made under s. 119.071(4)(e) ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)~~
79 may be disclosed to:

80 a. A title insurer authorized pursuant to s. 624.401 and
81 its affiliates as defined in s. 624.10;

82 b. A title insurance agent or title insurance agency as
83 defined in s. 626.841(1) and (2), respectively; or

84 c. An attorney duly admitted to practice law in this state
85 and in good standing with The Florida Bar.

86 2. The photo identification and affirmation by sworn
87 affidavit may be delivered in person, by mail, or by electronic
88 transmission to the county recorder.

89 3. The affiant requestor must attest to his or her
90 authority and the authorized purpose to access exempt
91 information pursuant to this section for the property specified
92 within the sworn affidavit.

93 4. The affiant requestor must identify the Official
94 Records book and page number, instrument number, or the clerk's
95 file number for each document requested within the sworn
96 affidavit and must include a description of the lawful purpose
97 and identify the individual or property that is the subject of
98 the search within the sworn affidavit.

99 5. Affidavits submitted by a title insurer, title
100 insurance agent, or title insurance agency must include the

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101 Florida Company Code or the license number, as applicable, and
102 an attestation to the affiant requestor's authorization to
103 transact business in this state. Affidavits submitted by an
104 attorney authorized under this section must include the affiant
105 requestor's Florida Bar number and a statement that the affiant
106 requestor has an agency agreement with a title insurer directly
107 or through his or her law firm.

108 6. The county recorder must record such affidavit in the
109 Official Records, as described in s. 28.222(2), but may not
110 place the image or copy of the affidavit on a publicly available
111 Internet website for general public display.

112 7. Upon providing a document disclosing redacted
113 information to an affiant requestor under this section, the
114 county recorder must provide a copy of the affidavit requesting
115 disclosure of the redacted information to each affected party at
116 the address listed on the document or on the request for removal
117 made by the affected party under s. 119.071. The county recorder
118 must prepare a certificate of mailing to be affixed to the
119 affidavit and must receive the statutory service charges as
120 prescribed by s. 28.24 from the affiant requestor.

121 8. Any party making a false attestation under this section
122 is subject to the penalty of perjury under s. 837.012.

123 **Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) and paragraph**
124 **(f) of subsection (3) of section 119.0714, Florida Statutes, are**
125 **amended to read:**

126 119.0714 Court files; court records; official records.—

127 (2) COURT RECORDS.—

128 (f) A request for maintenance of a public records
129 exemption in s. 119.071(4)(e)2. ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)2.~~ made pursuant
130 to s. 119.071(4)(e)3. ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)3.~~ must specify the
131 document type, name, identification number, and page number of
132 the court record that contains the exempt information.

133 (3) OFFICIAL RECORDS.—A person who prepares or files a
134 record for recording in the official records as provided in
135 chapter 28 may not include in that record a social security
136 number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number
137 unless otherwise expressly required by law.

138 (f) A request for maintenance of a public records
139 exemption in s. 119.071(4)(e)2. ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)2.~~ made pursuant
140 to s. 119.071(4)(e)3. ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)3.~~ must specify the
141 document type, name, identification number, and page number of
142 the official record that contains the exempt information.

143 **Section 4. Section 409.2577, Florida Statutes, is amended
144 to read:**

145 409.2577 Parent locator service.—The department shall
146 establish a parent locator service to assist in locating parents
147 who have deserted their children and other persons liable for
148 support of dependent children. The department shall use all
149 sources of information available, including the Federal Parent
150 Locator Service, and may request and shall receive information

151 from the records of any person or the state or any of its
152 political subdivisions or any officer thereof. Any agency as
153 defined in s. 120.52, any political subdivision, and any other
154 person shall, upon request, provide the department any
155 information relating to location, salary, insurance, social
156 security, income tax, and employment history necessary to locate
157 parents who owe or potentially owe a duty of support pursuant to
158 Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. This provision shall
159 expressly take precedence over any other statutory nondisclosure
160 provision which limits the ability of an agency to disclose such
161 information, except that law enforcement information as provided
162 in s. 119.071(4)(e) ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)~~ is not required to be
163 disclosed, and except that confidential taxpayer information
164 possessed by the Department of Revenue shall be disclosed only
165 to the extent authorized in s. 213.053(16). Nothing in this
166 section requires the disclosure of information if such
167 disclosure is prohibited by federal law. Information gathered or
168 used by the parent locator service is confidential and exempt
169 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). Additionally, the
170 department is authorized to collect any additional information
171 directly bearing on the identity and whereabouts of a person
172 owing or asserted to be owing an obligation of support for a
173 dependent child. The department shall, upon request, make
174 information available only to public officials and agencies of
175 this state; political subdivisions of this state, including any

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176 agency thereof providing child support enforcement services to
177 non-Title IV-D clients; the parent owed support, legal guardian,
178 attorney, or agent of the child; and other states seeking to
179 locate parents who have deserted their children and other
180 persons liable for support of dependents, for the sole purpose
181 of establishing, modifying, or enforcing their liability for
182 support, and shall make such information available to the
183 Department of Children and Families for the purpose of diligent
184 search activities pursuant to chapter 39. If the department has
185 reasonable evidence of domestic violence or child abuse and the
186 disclosure of information could be harmful to the parent owed
187 support or the child of such parent, the child support program
188 director or designee shall notify the Department of Children and
189 Families and the Secretary of the United States Department of
190 Health and Human Services of this evidence. Such evidence is
191 sufficient grounds for the department to disapprove an
192 application for location services.

193 **Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
194 744.21031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

195 744.21031 Public records exemption.—
196 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:
197 (c) "Telephone numbers" has the same meaning as provided
198 in s. 119.071(4)(e)1.c. ~~s. 119.071(4)(d)1.c.~~

199 **Section 6. The Legislature finds that it is a public**
200 **necessity that the home addresses, telephone numbers, personal**

201 electronic mail addresses, and dates of birth of current or
202 former agency employees; the names, home addresses, telephone
203 numbers, personal electronic mail addresses, dates of birth, and
204 places of employment of the spouses and children of such
205 employees; and the names and locations of schools and day care
206 facilities attended by the children of such employees held by
207 the employing agency be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida
208 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.
209 Current or former agency employees and their spouses and
210 children may be targets of harassment, stalking, intimidation,
211 threats, or other forms of harm due to the nature of the
212 employees' public duties. The public release of home addresses,
213 telephone numbers, and personal electronic mail addresses could
214 enable a person intent on harming or harassing such employee or
215 the employee's family to directly contact, locate, or surveil
216 such individuals. Protecting such information reduces the risk
217 of unwanted contact, cyberstalking, and other privacy invasions.
218 In addition, the public release of the names and places of
219 employment of the spouses and children of current or former
220 agency employees poses additional risks of harm to such
221 individuals. Disclosure of such information increases the
222 ability of malicious actors to directly target or locate the
223 family members of current or former agency employees. Protecting
224 this information reduces the risk of harassment, stalking, or
225 physical harm to the spouses and children of such employees.

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226 Additionally, the release of dates of birth of current or former
227 agency employees and their spouses and children poses a risk of
228 identity theft, fraud, and impersonation. Dates of birth are
229 commonly used as a means of verifying identity and, when
230 combined with other identifying information, may be used by
231 malicious actors to falsely represent themselves as the
232 individual and gain unauthorized access to financial accounts or
233 otherwise misuse the individual's identity for unlawful
234 purposes. Protecting this information is therefore essential to
235 reducing the risk of identity theft, fraud, impersonation, and
236 other unlawful use of such information. Furthermore, the release
237 of the names and locations of schools and day care facilities
238 attended by the children of current or former agency employees
239 poses a risk to the safety of such children. Disclosure of this
240 information would enable a person to locate the children of such
241 employees at predictable times and places. Protecting this
242 information is therefore essential to preventing potential harm,
243 including stalking, harassment, kidnapping, or other threats to
244 the well-being of such employees' minor children. Finally, the
245 Legislature finds that current or former agency employees and
246 their families should not be subject to increased safety risks
247 or other privacy invasions solely because the employee works or
248 worked for an agency.

249 **Section 7.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.