

By Senator Rodriguez

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public records; amending s.
119.071, F.S.; defining the term "emergency
physician"; providing exemptions from public records
requirements for the personal identifying and location
information of current or former emergency physicians
and the spouses and children of such emergency
physicians; providing for retroactive application of
the exemption; providing for future legislative review
and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of
public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (1) is added to subsection (5) of
section 119.071, Florida Statutes, to read:

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

(5) OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

(1)1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "emergency
physician" means a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
chapter 459 whose duties are performed in a hospital emergency
department licensed under chapter 395.

2. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
places of employment, and photographs of current or former
emergency physicians; the names, home addresses, telephone
numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses
and children of such emergency physicians; and the names and
locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the

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children of such emergency physicians are exempt from s.
119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

3. The exemption in subparagraph 2. applies to information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

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 This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, places of employment, and photographs of current or former emergency physicians; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such emergency physicians; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such emergency physicians be made exempt from public records requirements. Emergency physicians, by the nature of their duties, are often placed in traumatic circumstances in which loss of life and severe bodily injuries have occurred. Such emergency physicians are particularly vulnerable to physical violence, harassment, and intimidation perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients who can be violent, angry, or mentally unstable. As a result, the Legislature finds that the release of identifying and location information of emergency physicians, or of the spouses and children of such emergency physicians, could place them in danger of being physically or emotionally harmed or stalked by a person who has a hostile reaction to his or her encounter with such physicians. The

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Legislature further finds that the harm that may result from the
release of such identifying and location information outweighs
any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of
the information.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.