

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to public records; amending s.  
3       409.175, F.S.; providing confidentiality and an  
4       exemption from public records requirements for the  
5       personal identifying and location information of  
6       applicants for family foster homes and the names and  
7       personal identifying and location information of the  
8       spouses, children, and other adult household members  
9       of such applicants; providing confidentiality and an  
10      exemption from public records requirements for the  
11      personal identifying and location information of  
12      current and former owners and operators of family  
13      foster homes and the names and personal identifying  
14      and location information of the spouses, children, and  
15      other adult household members of such owners and  
16      operators; providing confidentiality and an exemption  
17      from public records requirements for the personal  
18      identifying and location information of character or  
19      neighbor references of a family foster home applicant  
20      or a current or former owner or operator of a family  
21      foster home; providing for future legislative review  
22      and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of  
23      public necessity; providing an effective date.

24  
25   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

**Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 409.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public records exemption.—

(16)(a)1. The following information held by the Department of Children and Families regarding a family foster home parent applicant and his or her ~~such applicant's~~ spouse, children ~~minor child~~, and other adult household members ~~member~~ is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

a. The home, business, work, child care, or school addresses and telephone numbers;

b. Birth dates;

c. Medical records;

d. The floor plan of the home; and

e. Photographs of such persons.

~~2.— If a foster parent applicant does not receive a foster parent license, the information made exempt pursuant to this paragraph shall become public 5 years after the date of application, except that medical records shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~2.3.—~~ This exemption applies to information made

51 confidential and exempt by this paragraph before, on, or after  
52 the effective date of the exemption.

53 (b)1. The following information held by the Department of  
54 Children and Families regarding a current or former owner or  
55 operator of a family foster home and his or her licensed foster  
56 ~~parent and the foster parent's~~ spouse, children ~~minor child~~, and  
57 other adult household members ~~member~~ is confidential and exempt  
58 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
59 Constitution:

60 a. The home, business, work, child care, or school  
61 addresses and telephone numbers;

62 b. Birth dates;

63 c. Medical records;

64 d. The floor plan of the home; and

65 e. Photographs of such persons.

66 ~~2. If a foster parent's license is no longer active, the~~  
67 ~~information made exempt pursuant to this paragraph shall become~~  
68 ~~public 5 years after the expiration date of such foster parent's~~  
69 ~~foster care license except that:~~

70 ~~a. Medical records shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1)~~  
71 ~~and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

72 ~~b. Exempt information regarding a licensed foster parent~~  
73 ~~who has become an adoptive parent and exempt information~~  
74 ~~regarding such foster parent's spouse, minor child, or other~~  
75 ~~adult household member shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1) and~~

76 ~~s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

77 ~~2.3-~~ This exemption applies to information made  
78 confidential and exempt by this paragraph before, on, or after  
79 the effective date of the exemption.

80 (c) The name, address, and telephone number of persons  
81 providing character or neighbor references regarding a family  
82 foster home applicant or a current or former owner or operator  
83 of a family foster home ~~foster parent applicants or licensed~~  
84 ~~foster parents~~ held by the Department of Children and Families  
85 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.  
86 I of the State Constitution.

87 (d) This subsection is subject to the Open Government  
88 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand  
89 repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from  
90 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

91 **Section 2.** (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public  
92 necessity that the home, business, work, child care, or school  
93 addresses of family foster home applicants and the spouses,  
94 children, and household members of those applicants, along with  
95 the birth dates, medical records, home floor plans, and  
96 photographs of such persons held by the Department of Children  
97 and Families be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1),  
98 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article 1 of the State  
99 Constitution. Such identifying and location information can be  
100 used to locate family foster home applicants, their family

101 members and household members, and the children placed in the  
102 family foster home by the Department of Children and Families to  
103 threaten or harm the applicant, the applicant's family and  
104 household members, and the foster children; to perpetuate fraud  
105 against any of these individuals; or to acquire sensitive  
106 personal, financial, medical, and familial information, the  
107 release of which could cause great financial harm to the  
108 individual.

109 (2) The Legislature finds that the home, business, work,  
110 child care, or school addresses of the current or former owner  
111 or operator of a family foster home and the spouses, children,  
112 and household members of those owners and operators, along with  
113 the birth dates, medical records, home floor plans, and  
114 photographs of such persons held by the Department of Children  
115 and Families be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1),  
116 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article 1 of the State  
117 Constitution. Such identifying and location information can be  
118 used to locate owners and operators of family foster homes,  
119 their family members and household members, and the children  
120 placed in the family foster home by the Department of Children  
121 and Families to threaten or harm the owner or operator, the  
122 owner or operator's family and household members, and the foster  
123 children; to perpetuate fraud against any of these individuals;  
124 or to acquire sensitive personal, financial, medical, and  
125 familial information, the release of which could cause great

126 financial harm to the individual.

127 (3) The Legislature finds that the name, address, and  
128 telephone number of persons providing character or neighbor  
129 references regarding a family foster home applicant or a current  
130 or former owner or operator of a family foster home held by the  
131 Department of Children and Families be made confidential and  
132 exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),  
133 Article 1 of the State Constitution. Such identifying and  
134 location information can be used to locate character or neighbor  
135 references regarding a family foster home applicant or a current  
136 or former owner or operator of a family foster home to threaten  
137 or harm the character or neighbor reference; to perpetuate fraud  
138 against any of these individuals; or to acquire sensitive  
139 personal, financial, medical, and familial information, the  
140 release of which could cause great financial harm to the  
141 individual.

142 (4) Children placed in a family foster home are often  
143 removed from the care of their biological parents due to  
144 physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; domestic violence; drug  
145 use; neglect; and many other reasons for which the state has  
146 identified the children are in danger. As such, it is necessary  
147 to protect the location of such children from being known,  
148 directly or indirectly, by their biological parents until the  
149 case has been litigated and the children have been returned to  
150 their biological parents upon satisfactory completion of their

case plan and having their parenting rights restored. As a  
result of being the person ultimately responsible for the care  
of a child who is removed from the home of his or her biological  
parents, owners and operators of family foster homes may incur  
the ill will of the biological parents, thus making such owners  
and operators and their other children targets for acts of  
revenge. If such identifying and location information is  
released, the safety of the owners and operators of family  
foster homes and all children living with them could be  
seriously jeopardized. Additionally, exposing such information  
of family foster home applicants and their families may cause a  
chilling effect on the number of applications received because  
of the potential exposure of sensitive personal information,  
thereby reducing the number of foster families willing to foster  
children. The Legislature further finds that the harm that may  
result from the release of such personal 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.