

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. HB 447 (2026)

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED _____ (Y/N)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____ (Y/N)

ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION _____ (Y/N)

FAILED TO ADOPT _____ (Y/N)

WITHDRAWN _____ (Y/N)

OTHER _____

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Government Operations
Subcommittee

Representative Maney offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 138-180 and insert:

Section 3. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that court hearings and administrative hearings under part I of chapter 394 and court hearings under part IV or part V of chapter 397, Florida Statutes, be made confidential and closed to the public unless the court or administrative law judge, as applicable, finds good cause to open a hearing to the public or the respondent consents to a hearing being open to the public. The mental health or substance abuse disorders of a person are medical conditions that should be protected from public disclosure. A person's health and sensitive personal

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Amendment No.

information regarding his or her mental health or substance abuse disorders are intensely private matters. Making hearings confidential and closed to the public when such disorders, conditions, and personal information may be communicated will protect such persons from the release of sensitive personal information that could damage their and their families' reputations. Allowing public hearings relating to such information defeats the purpose of protections otherwise provided. Further, the knowledge that such sensitive personal information is subject to disclosure could have a chilling effect on a person's willingness to seek out and comply with mental health or substance abuse treatment services.

(2) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the respondent's name, at a hearing or on appeal, and all applications or petitions for voluntary and involuntary examination, treatment, or assessment and stabilization; court orders; and related records that are filed with or by a court under part I of chapter 394, Florida Statutes, or part IV or part V of chapter 397, Florida Statutes, be made confidential and exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Further, because certain proceedings under part I of chapter 394, Florida Statutes, may be conducted before the Division of Administrative Hearings rather than a court, it is a public necessity that the same protections apply to records held by the Division of

Amendment No.

Administrative Hearings to the same extent as records held by a
court. The mental health or substance abuse disorders of a
person are medical conditions that should be protected from
public disclosure. A person's health and sensitive personal
information regarding his or her mental health or substance
abuse disorders are intensely private matters. Making such
specified information confidential and exempt from disclosure
will prevent the release of sensitive personal information that
could damage a person's or their families' reputations. The
publication of a respondent's name

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove line 16 and insert:

necessity; providing an effective date.