

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WITHDRAWN (Y/N)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

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Government Operations
2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Maney offered the following:

5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 138-180 and insert:

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

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

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

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

TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove line 16 and insert:
necessity; providing an effective date.