

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [HB 695](#)

**TITLE:** Pub. Rec./Health Care

**SPONSOR(S):** Redondo

**COMPANION BILL:** None

**LINKED BILLS:** [HB 693](#) Redondo

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Health Care Facilities & Systems](#)

14 Y, 1 N



[Government Operations](#)



[Health & Human Services](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

HB 695 creates public record and public meeting exemptions required to implement the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact. The bill is linked to HB 693, which authorizes Florida to enter into both compacts. The Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact each require member states to share certain licensure and personal identifying information of applicants, protect certain information from public disclosure, and to allow certain meetings to be closed.

The bill makes the public record and public meeting exemptions subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and states that the exemption shall be repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will have a significant, negative fiscal impact on state government and no fiscal impact on local government.

### Extraordinary Vote Required for Passage:

The bill requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in both houses of the Legislature for final passage.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

#### Interstate Licensure Compact Public Records and Meetings

The bill creates [public record and public meeting exemptions](#) required to implement and administer the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact ([EMS Compact](#)) and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact ([PA Compact](#)). Specifically, the bill exempts from public record certain personal identifying information, other than the name, licensure information, or licensure number of emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics and physician assistants (PAs) authorized to practice under the EMS and PA Compacts, obtained from the coordinated data system by the Department of Health (DOH), the Board of Medicine, or the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, unless the law of the state that originally reported the information to the [data system](#) authorizes its disclosure. Disclosure under such circumstance is limited to the extent permitted under the laws of the reporting state. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#))

The bill creates a public meetings exemption to allow meetings, or a portion of a meeting, held by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice ([EMS Commission](#)) and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission ([PA Commission](#)), or the executive committee or any other committee of the EMS or PA Commission, respectively, to convene in a closed meeting when discussing matters specifically exempted from disclosure by

**STORAGE NAME:** h0695a.HFS

**DATE:** 1/29/2026

federal or state law. The bill also creates a public records exemption for any recordings, minutes, and records generated during an exempt meeting or any portion of an exempt meeting. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#))

The bill specifies that the public record and public meeting exemptions are subject to the [Open Government Sunset Review Act](#) and will stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless saved from repeal by reenactment by the Legislature. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#))

The bill provides public necessity statements for the public record and public meeting exemptions, as required by the State Constitution. The public necessity statement for the public records exemption states that protection of such information is required under the EMS Compact and the PA Compact, which the state must adopt in order to become a member of either compact. Without the public records and meetings exemptions, the state would be prohibited from becoming a party to the EMS Compact and the PA Compact, and would be unable to effectively and efficiently administer either compact. (Section [3](#))

The public necessity statement for the public meeting exemption states that it is a public necessity to exempt EMS Commission and PA Commission meetings, and committee meetings of either commission, wherein matters specifically exempt from disclosure by federal or state law are discussed. Without the public meeting exemption for these meetings, the state would be prohibited from becoming a member of the EMS or PA Compact. (Section [3](#))

The effective date of the bill is the same date that HB 693 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or extension thereof and becomes law. (Section [4](#))

[Article I, s. 24\(c\)](#) of the Florida Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting for final passage of a newly created public record exemption. The bill creates a public record exemption; thus, it requires a two-thirds vote for final passage.

## **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

### **STATE GOVERNMENT:**

The bill will have a significant, negative fiscal impact on state government. DOH will experience a non-recurring increase in workload associated with updating the License Verification Search Site and data exchange services to comply with the data confidentiality requirements of the EMS and PA compacts. However, it is anticipated that existing resources are adequate to absorb the additional cost associated with the increased workload. DOH may request additional resources to implement the bill either through the Legislative Budget Request process or through the Legislative Budget Commission.

## **RELEVANT INFORMATION**

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

#### **Public Record and Public Meeting Exemptions**

The Florida Constitution sets forth the state's public policy regarding access to government records and meetings. Every person is guaranteed a right to inspect or copy any public record of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.<sup>1</sup> All meetings of any collegial public body of the executive branch of state government or any collegial public body of a county, municipality, school district, or special district, at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, must be open and noticed to the

<sup>1</sup> Art. I, s. 24(a), FLA. CONST.

public.<sup>2</sup> The Legislature, however, may provide by general law an exemption<sup>3</sup> from public record or meeting requirements provided that the exemption passes by a two-thirds vote of each chamber, states with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption, and is no broader than necessary to meet its public purpose.<sup>4</sup>

Pursuant to the [Open Government Sunset Review Act](#),<sup>5</sup> a new public record or meeting exemption or substantial amendment of an existing exemption is repealed on October 2nd of the fifth year following enactment, unless the Legislature reenacts the exemption.<sup>6</sup>

### Public Records

Current law addresses the public policy regarding access to government records, guaranteeing every person a right to inspect and copy any state, county, or municipal record, unless the record is exempt.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the Open Government Sunset Review Act provides that a public record exemption may be created, revised, or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose and the “Legislature finds that the purpose is sufficiently compelling to override the strong public policy of open government and cannot be accomplished without the exemption.”<sup>8</sup> An identifiable public purpose is served if the exemption meets one of the following purposes:

- Allow the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, which administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption;
- Protect sensitive personal information that, if released, would be defamatory or would jeopardize an individual’s safety; however, only the identity of an individual may be exempted under this provision; or
- Protect trade or business secrets.<sup>9</sup>

### Public Meetings

Current law also addresses public policy regarding access to government meetings, requiring all meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority, or of any agency or authority of any county, municipality, or political subdivision, at which official acts are to be taken to be open to the public at all times, unless the meeting is exempt.<sup>10</sup> The board or commission must provide reasonable notice of all public meetings.<sup>11</sup> Public meetings may not be held at any location that discriminates on the basis of sex, age, race, creed, color, origin, or economic status or that operates in a manner that unreasonably restricts the public’s access to the facility.<sup>12</sup> Minutes of a public meeting must be promptly recorded and open to public inspection.<sup>13</sup> Failure to abide by public meeting requirements will invalidate any resolution, rule, or formal action adopted at a meeting.<sup>14</sup> A public officer or

<sup>2</sup> [Art. I, s. 24\(b\), FLA. CONST.](#)

<sup>3</sup> A public record exemption means a provision of general law which provides that a specified record or meeting, or portion thereof, is not subject to the access requirements of [s. 119.07\(1\), F.S.](#), [s. 286.011, F.S.](#), or [s. 24, Art. I](#) of the Florida Constitution. See [s. 119.011\(8\), F.S.](#) There is a difference between records the Legislature designates exempt from public record requirements and those the Legislature designates confidential and exempt. A record classified as exempt from public disclosure may be disclosed under certain circumstances. See *WFTV, Inc. v. Sch. Bd. of Seminole*, 874 So.2d 48, 53 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004), *review denied*, 892 So.2d 1015 (Fla. 2004); *State v. Wooten*, 260 So. 3d 1060, 1070 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018); *City of Riviera Beach v. Barfield*, 642 So.2d 1135 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994); *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So.2d 683, 687 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991). If the Legislature designates a record as confidential and exempt from public disclosure, such record may not be released by the custodian of public records to anyone other than the persons or entities specifically designated in statute. See Op. Att’y Gen. Fla. 04- 09 (2004).

<sup>4</sup> [Art. I, s. 24\(c\), FLA. CONST.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [S. 119.15, F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [S. 119.15\(3\), F.S.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [S. 119.01, F.S.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [S. 119.15\(6\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> [S. 286.011\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> [S. 286.011\(6\), F.S.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [S. 286.011\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [S. 286.011\(1\), F.S.](#)

member of a governmental entity who violates public meeting requirements is subject to civil and criminal penalties, including fines of up to \$500 and/or jail time.<sup>15</sup>

Interstate Licensure Compacts

The Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact ([EMS Compact](#)) and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact ([PA Compact](#)) were created to facilitate multistate practice of licensed emergency medical services personnel (emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics)<sup>16</sup> and physician assistants (PAs), respectively.<sup>17</sup> The compacts allow individuals licensed as EMTs, paramedics, and PAs in Florida to practice in other compact member states without obtaining multiple state licenses. Eligible licensees from other compact member states will also be able to practice in Florida.

The EMS and PA Compacts are governed by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice ([EMS Commission](#)) and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission ([PA Commission](#)), respectively. The compact commissions are responsible for creating and enforcing the rules and regulations that administer and govern the respective compacts.

Under the EMS Compact, an EMT or paramedic with an unrestricted license in his or her home state<sup>18</sup> is granted an immediate privilege to practice in other compact member states without obtaining additional state licenses.<sup>19</sup> Under the PA Compact, an eligible licensed PA in a participating state or compact member state may apply for a compact privilege, which is equivalent to a license, through the PA Commission to practice in other compact member states.<sup>20</sup>

Coordinated Data System

The EMS Compact and the PA Compact both require compact member states to submit certain information through a coordinated data system.

Under the EMS Compact, the data submitted through the coordinated data system must include the EMT’s or paramedic’s:

- Identifying information;
- Licensure data;
- Significant investigatory information;
- An indicator that an individual’s privilege to practice is restricted, suspended or revoked;
- Non-confidential information related to alternative program participation;<sup>21</sup>
- Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial; and
- Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as determined by the rules of the Commission.

<sup>15</sup> [S. 286.011\(3\), F.S.](#) A knowing violation is a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable with up to 60 days in jail and/or \$500 fine. Unintentional violations are noncriminal infractions with fines up to \$500.

<sup>16</sup> The EMS Compact, *Facts & Benefits*, available at <https://www.emscompact.gov/resources/benefits>, (last visited November 14, 2025).

<sup>17</sup> PA Compact, *PA Licensure Compact Overview*, available at <https://www.pacompact.org/siteassets/pa-licensure-compact/pdf/brochure.pdf>, (last visited December 8, 2025).

<sup>18</sup> A home state is the compact member state where an individual is licensed to practice emergency medical services.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* Under the EMS Compact, the “privilege to practice” is an individual’s authority to deliver emergency medical services in compact member states as authorized by the compact.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> An alternative program is a voluntary, non-disciplinary substance abuse recovery program. An example of an alternative program is the impaired practitioner program, which provides resources to assist health care practitioners who are impaired as a result of the misuse or abuse of drugs and/or alcohol, or a mental condition that affects the practitioner’s ability to safely practice. See, s. 456.076, F.S.

Under the PA Compact, the data submitted must include:

- Identifying information;
- Licensure data;
- Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege;
- Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason for such denial;
- The existence of significant investigative information; and
- Other information that may facilitate the administration of the PA Compact, as determined by the PA Commission rules.

Under both compacts, a compact member state may designate information submitted to the data system that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of that member state. Also, any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently expunged according to federal law or the laws of the reporting compact member state shall be removed from the data system.

If Florida participates in the EMS and PA Compacts, it would be required to maintain the confidentiality of data designated by other member states of each compact, which would conflict with the state's public records obligations under the Florida Constitution.

#### Interstate Licensure Compact Commissions

The EMS Commission and the PA Commission are the governing bodies and entities responsible for creating and enforcing the rules and regulations that administer and govern the EMS and PA Compacts, respectively. The EMS Commission and the PA Commission are both composed of representatives from member states of their respective compact. Commission members are appointed by the state licensing board or applicable regulatory body. The EMS Compact and the PA Compact both permit the EMS Commission and the PA Commission, respectively, to establish an executive committee and other committees, as needed, to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by their respective compact commission.

#### *Commission Meetings*

Under the terms of the EMS Compact and the PA Compact, commission meetings must be open to the public and public notice must be given. However, both compacts do allow the EMS Commission and the PA Commission to convene in a closed meeting when discussing certain matters.

#### EMS Commission Meetings

Under the EMS Compact, the EMS Commission or the executive committee or other committees of the EMS Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting or non-public part of a meeting to discuss the following:

- Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;
- The employment, compensation, discipline or other personnel matters, practices, or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services, or real estate;
- Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
- Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

- Disclosure of information related to any investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact; or
- Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state law.

PA Commission Meetings

Under the PA Compact, the PA Commission or the executive committee or other committees of the EMS Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting or non-public part of a meeting to receive legal advice or to discuss the following matters:

- Noncompliance of a participating state with its obligations under the compact;
- The employment, compensation, discipline, or other matters, practices, or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real estate;
- Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
- Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- Disclosure of information of a personal nature when disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- Disclosure of information related to any investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact;
- Legal advice; or
- Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state law.

If Florida participates in the EMS Compact or the PA Compact, the state’s delegated representative for each compact would be required to attend certain closed, non-public meetings held by the EMS Commission and the PA Commission, which would conflict with the state’s public meetings obligations under the Florida Constitution unless an exemption is created by law.

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact](#)  
[Physician Assistant Licensure Compact](#)

BILL HISTORY				
COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Health Care Facilities &amp; Systems Subcommittee</a>	14 Y, 1 N	1/29/2026	Lloyd	Curry
<a href="#">Government Operations Subcommittee</a>				
<a href="#">Health &amp; Human Services Committee</a>				