

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [CS/HB 695](#)
TITLE: Pub. Rec./Health Care
SPONSOR(S): Redondo

COMPANION BILL: None
LINKED BILLS: [CS/HB 693](#) (Redondo)
RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Health Care Facilities & Systems](#)

14 Y, 1 N



[Government Operations](#)

17 Y, 1 N



[Health & Human Services](#)

23 Y, 0 N, As CS

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, the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, and the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact. The bill is linked to HB 693, which authorizes Florida to enter into each compact. The Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact, the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, and the Social Work Licensure Interstate 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 exemptions will repeal on October 2, 2031, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will have a significant, negative fiscal impact on the Department of Health.

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](#)), the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact ([PA Compact](#)), and the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact ([SW Compact](#)). Specifically, the bill protects the personal identifying information (other than name, licensure information, and licensure number) of emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, physician assistants (PAs), and clinical social workers authorized to practice under the EMS, PA, and SW Compacts. The exempt information is contained within a coordinated data system, the creation of which is mandated by the compacts, and held by the Department of Health (DOH), the Board of Medicine, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, or the Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling. The information remains exempt unless the law of the state that originally reported the information to the [data system](#) authorizes its disclosure. In that situation, disclosure is limited to the extent permitted under the laws of the reporting state. (Sections [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#))

STORAGE NAME: h0695e.HHS

DATE: 2/25/2026

The bill creates a public meeting exemption to allow meetings, or a portion of a meeting, held by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice ([EMS Commission](#)), the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission ([PA Commission](#)), and the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission ([SW Commission](#)), or the executive committee of the respective Commission, to convene in a closed meeting when discussing matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state law. The bill also creates a public record exemption for any recordings, minutes, or records generated during a closed meeting. (Sections [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#))

The bill specifies that the public record and public meeting exemptions are subject to the [Open Government Sunset Review Act](#) and will repeal on October 2, 2031, unless reenacted by the Legislature. (Sections [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#))

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, the PA Compact, and the SW Compact, which the state must adopt in order to become a member of the compacts. Without the public records and meetings exemptions, the state would be prohibited from becoming a party to the EMS Compact, the PA Compact, and the SW Compact, and would be unable to effectively and efficiently administer the respective compacts. (Section [4](#))

The public necessity statement for the public meeting exemption states that it is a public necessity to exempt EMS Commission, PA Commission, and SW Commission meetings, and committee meetings of the commissions, 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, PA, or SW Compact. (Section [4](#))

The bill is effective on the same date that [HB 693](#)¹ or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or extension thereof and becomes law. (Section [5](#))

[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, PA, and SW 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.² 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

¹ HB 693 enacts the EMS and the PA Compacts and authorizes Florida to enter into both compacts. If passed, HB 693 takes effect July 1, 2026.

² [Art. I, s. 24\(a\), FLA. CONST.](#)

taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, must be open and noticed to the public.³ The Legislature, however, may provide by general law an exemption⁴ 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.⁵

Pursuant to the [Open Government Sunset Review Act](#),⁶ 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.⁷

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.⁸ 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.”⁹ 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.¹⁰

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.¹¹ The board or commission must provide reasonable notice of all public meetings.¹² 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.¹³ Minutes of a public meeting must be promptly recorded and open to public inspection.¹⁴ Failure to abide by public meeting requirements will invalidate any resolution, rule, or formal action adopted at a meeting.¹⁵ A public officer or

³ [Art. I, s. 24\(b\), FLA. CONST.](#)

⁴ 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).

⁵ [Art. I, s. 24\(c\), FLA. CONST.](#)

⁶ [S. 119.15, F.S.](#)

⁷ [S. 119.15\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁸ [S. 119.01, F.S.](#)

⁹ [S. 119.15\(6\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ [S. 286.011\(1\), F.S.](#)

¹² *Id.*

¹³ [S. 286.011\(6\), F.S.](#)

¹⁴ [S. 286.011\(2\), F.S.](#)

¹⁵ [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.¹⁶

Interstate Licensure Compacts

The [EMS Compact](#), the [PA Compact](#), and the [SW Compact](#) were created to facilitate multistate practice of licensed emergency medical services personnel (emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics),¹⁷ physician assistants (PAs), and clinical social workers, respectively.¹⁸ The compacts allow individuals licensed as EMTs, paramedics, PAs, and social workers 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, PA, and SW Compacts are governed by the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice ([EMS Commission](#)), the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission ([PA Commission](#)), and the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact Commission ([SW 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 state¹⁹ is granted an immediate privilege to practice in other compact member states without obtaining additional state licenses.²⁰ 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.²¹

[Coordinated Data Systems](#)

The EMS Compact, the PA Compact, and the SW Compact each 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;²²
- Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial; and
- Other information that may facilitate the administration of the EMS Compact, as determined by the rules of the EMS Commission.

¹⁶ [S. 286.011\(3\), F.S.](#) Any person who knowingly attends a meeting that is in violation of the public meetings law is guilty of 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.

¹⁷ The EMS Compact, *Facts & Benefits*, available at <https://www.emscompact.gov/resources/benefits>, (last visited November 14, 2025).

¹⁸ PA Compact, *PA Licensure Compact Overview*, available at <https://www.pacompact.org/siteassets/pa-licensure-compact/pdf/brochure.pdf>, (last visited December 8, 2025).

¹⁹ A home state is the compact member state where an individual is licensed to practice emergency medical services.

²⁰ *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.

²¹ *Id.*

²² 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 the PA's:

- 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 the SW Compact, the data submitted must include the social worker's:

- Identifying information;
- Licensure data;
- Any adverse actions taken against a social worker's license;²³
- Nonconfidential information related to the social worker's participation in alternative programs;
- Licensure application denials and the reason for such denials;
- Current significant investigative information; and
- Any other information that may facilitate the administration of the compact or the protection of the public, as determined by Commission rules.²⁴

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, PA, and SW 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 and the Florida Statutes.

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 the 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.

²³ Adverse action is any disciplinary action that is a matter of public record which is taken by a state's regulatory authority against a social worker's license to practice in that state.

²⁴ Social Work Licensure Compact Model Legislation, at <https://swcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2023/11/Social-Work-Licensure-Compact-Final-PDF.pdf> (last visited January 29, 2026).

EMS Commission Meetings

Under the EMS Compact, the EMS Commission or the executive committee or other committees of the 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 PA 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 investigative 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.

SW Commission Meetings

Under the SW Compact, the SW Commission or the executive committee or other committees of the SW Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting to receive legal advice or to discuss certain matters, including:

- Noncompliance of a compact member state with its obligations under the compact;
- The employment, compensation, discipline, or other matter, practices or procedures related to specific employees;

- Current or threatened discipline of a licensee by the Commission or by a member state's licensing authority;
- 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;
- Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- Information of a personal nature when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- Investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- Information related to any investigative reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for use of the Commission or other committee charged with the responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact;
- Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state law; and
- Other matters as adopted by the commission by rule.

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

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/SENATE SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2025	CS/HB 29 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact	Hunschofsky, Campbell/ <i>Harrell</i>	Died in Senate
2024	CS/CS/HB 101 - Pub. Rec. & Meetings/Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact	Hunschofsky/ <i>Rodriguez</i>	Died in House

OTHER RESOURCES:

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

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee	14 Y, 1 N	1/29/2026	Lloyd	Curry
Government Operations Subcommittee	17 Y, 1 N	2/11/2026	Toliver	Walker
Health & Human Services Committee	23 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/24/2026	Calamas	Curry
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	Creates public record and public meeting exemptions required to implement the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact.			

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

