

By Senator Yarborough

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public records requests made to law
3 enforcement officers; creating s. 119.101, F.S.;
4 defining terms; prohibiting law enforcement officers
5 from accepting and processing public records requests
6 while engaged in certain activities; providing that a
7 law enforcement officer makes a certain determination;
8 requiring that a law enforcement officer verbally
9 inform an individual of certain information; providing
10 criminal penalties for individuals who knowingly and
11 willfully persist in attempting to compel a law
12 enforcement officer to accept and process a public
13 records request under certain circumstances; providing
14 applicability; providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 119.101, Florida Statutes, is created to
19 read:

20 119.101 Requests for public records made to law enforcement
21 officers.-

22 (1) As used in this section, the term:

23 (a) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as in s.
24 943.10.

25 (b) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in s.
26 943.10.

27 (2) A law enforcement officer who is actively engaged in
28 the performance of an official duty, including, but not limited
29 to, a call for service, an investigation, a case-related

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30 activity, or other official police activity, may not accept and
31 process a public records request at such time.

32 (a) For the purposes of this section, the determination of
33 whether such officer is engaged in the performance of an
34 official duty is made by the officer.

35 (b) Upon the determination that the officer is engaged in
36 the performance of an official duty, the officer must verbally
37 inform the individual requesting public records that he or she
38 cannot accept and process the public records request at that
39 time and direct the individual to:

40 1. The custodian of records for the officer's employing
41 agency; or

42 2. An official public records request online portal, if
43 available.

44 (c) An individual who, after being informed pursuant to
45 paragraph (b), knowingly and willfully persists in attempting to
46 compel a law enforcement officer to accept and process a public
47 records request while such officer is engaged in the performance
48 of an official duty commits the offense of obstruction of a law
49 enforcement officer, in violation of s. 843.02.

50 (3) This section does not apply to a law enforcement
51 officer performing his or her official duties at an official
52 location of the employing agency.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.