

## **HB 7087 — Open Government Sunset Review/Guardians ad Litem**

by Governmental Affairs Policy Committee and Rep. Holder and others (CS/SB 1200 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Judiciary Committee)

This bill is the result of the Legislature's Open Government Sunset Review of the public-records exemption for specified personal information relating to current or former guardians ad litem found in s. 119.071(4)(d)1.h., F.S. Currently, the exemption protects from disclosure under the public-records law the home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, and photographs of current or former guardians ad litem. Additionally, the exemption covers the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former guardians ad litem. The review found that this exemption is necessary to protect guardians ad litem and their families from harm and is also necessary for the administration of the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Therefore, the bill reenacts the exemption and also expands it to include the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by a current or former guardian ad litem's children within the scope of protected information. This expansion is based upon the finding that comparable public-records exemptions exist for specified individuals, such as judges, magistrates, and code enforcement officers, which exempt from disclosure the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the specified individuals' children.

The bill also includes a statement of public necessity, providing that the expansion of the exemption is necessary in order to protect the safety and welfare of the children of current or former guardians ad litem.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 35-0; House 112-0*