

HB 7115 — Open Government Sunset Review/Parental Notice of Abortion Act

by Governmental Affairs Policy Committee and Rep. Ambler (CS/SB 1198 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 any information in a court record which could be used to identify a minor who petitions for a judicial waiver of the parental notice requirement under the Parental Notice of Abortion Act. The review found that this exemption is necessary to protect minors from harm and may also be necessary for the administration of the program.

Therefore, the bill reenacts the exemption and expands it to also protect from disclosure under the public-records law any identifying information of a minor under the Act if held by the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel or by the Justice Administrative Commission. This expansion is based upon the finding that identifying information may sometimes be retained by regional counsel and the commission during representation and processing of payments for representation of minors in these cases.

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

Vote: Senate 33-0; House 115-0