

CHAPTER 98-259

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1613

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.07, F.S.; providing an exemption from the public records law for certain records furnished pursuant to certain housing assistance programs; providing for future review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (cc) is added to subsection (3) of section 119.07, Florida Statutes, to read:

119.07 Inspection, examination, and duplication of records; exemptions.—

(3)

(cc)1. Medical history records, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, telephone numbers, and information related to health or property insurance furnished by an individual to any agency pursuant to federal, state, or local housing assistance programs are confidential and exempt from the provisions of subsection (1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Any other information produced or received by any private or public entity in direct connection with federal, state, or local housing assistance programs, unless the subject of another federal or state exemption, is subject to subsection (1).

2. Governmental agencies or their agents are entitled to access to the records specified in this paragraph for the purposes of auditing federal, state, or local housing programs or housing assistance programs. Such records may be used by an agency, as needed, in any administrative or judicial proceeding, provided such records are kept confidential and exempt, unless otherwise ordered by a court.

3. This paragraph is repealed effective October 2, 2003, and must be reviewed by the Legislature before that date in accordance with s. 119.15, the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995.

Section 2. The Legislature finds it is a public necessity that medical history records, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, telephone numbers, and information related to health or property insurance furnished to a housing assistance program be held confidential and exempt from public records requirements because revealing such information could create the opportunity for fraud and is an unnecessary intrusion into the personal affairs of the program participants.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1 of the year in which enacted.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 28, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 27, 1998.