

Senate Bill No. 1222

An act relating to public records; amending s. 383.51, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for information that identifies a parent who leaves a newborn infant at an emergency medical services station; providing an exception; providing for future review and repeal; providing a finding of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 383.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

383.51 Confidentiality; identification of parent leaving newborn infant at hospital, emergency medical services station, or fire station.—The identity of a parent who leaves a newborn infant at a hospital, emergency medical services station, or a fire station in accordance with s. 383.50 is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The identity of a parent leaving a child shall be disclosed to a person claiming to be a parent of the newborn infant. This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2007 ~~October 2, 2005~~, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that the preservation of anonymity and confidentiality of parents who leave newborn infants at emergency medical services stations is a public necessity in order to encourage parents to leave infants safely and thus protect the life and health of those infants. The Legislature further finds that the public policy provided for in the creation of section 383.50, Florida Statutes, will be served if the anonymity and confidentiality of parents who leave newborns at emergency medical services stations is maintained.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 16, 2002.