

## House Bill No. 1563

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.071, F.S.; revising the date until which a confidential and exempt social security number or an exempt complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number included in a court file may be included as part of a court record available for public inspection and copying unless redaction is requested; providing that the clerk of the circuit court has no liability for the inadvertent release of certain confidential and exempt social security numbers or exempt bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers; revising the date until which a social security number or a complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number included in a document presented to the county recorder for recording in the official records of the county may be made available as part of the official record available for public inspection and copying; requiring the county recorder to use his or her best efforts to redact all social security numbers and complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers from electronic copies of official records documents; providing that the county recorder is not liable for the inadvertent release of certain confidential and exempt social security numbers or exempt bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers; revising the date on which the clerk of the circuit court and the county recorder must commence keeping complete bank account, debit, charge, and credit card numbers exempt and must commence keeping social security numbers confidential and exempt without any person having to request redaction; making editorial changes; reenacting s. 1007.35(8)(b), F.S., relating to access to information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of delivered services from the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 119.071, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.—

(5) OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

(a)1. The Legislature acknowledges that the social security number was never intended to be used for business purposes but was intended to be used solely for the administration of the federal Social Security System. The Legislature is further aware that over time this unique numeric identifier has been used extensively for identity verification purposes and other legitimate consensual purposes. The Legislature is also cognizant of the fact that the social security number can be used as a tool to perpetuate fraud against

a person and to acquire sensitive personal, financial, medical, and familial information, the release of which could cause great financial or personal harm to an individual. The Legislature intends to monitor the commercial use of social security numbers held by state agencies in order to maintain a balanced public policy.

2. An agency may ~~shall~~ not collect an individual's social security number unless authorized by law to do so or unless the collection of the social security number is otherwise imperative for the performance of that agency's duties and responsibilities as prescribed by law. Social security numbers collected by an agency must be relevant to the purpose for which collected and may ~~shall~~ not be collected until and unless the need for social security numbers has been clearly documented. An agency that collects social security numbers shall also segregate that number on a separate page from the rest of the record, or as otherwise appropriate, in order that the social security number be more easily redacted, if required, pursuant to a public records request. An agency collecting a person's social security number shall, upon that person's request, at the time of or prior to the actual collection of the social security number by that agency, provide that person with a statement of the purpose or purposes for which the social security number is being collected and used. Social security numbers collected by an agency may ~~shall~~ not be used by that agency for any purpose other than the purpose stated. Social security numbers collected by an agency before ~~prior to~~ May 13, 2002, shall be reviewed for compliance with this subparagraph. If the collection of a social security number before ~~prior to~~ May 13, 2002, is found to be unwarranted, the agency shall immediately discontinue the collection of social security numbers for that purpose.

3. Effective October 1, 2002, all social security numbers held by an agency are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption applies to all social security numbers held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

4. Social security numbers may be disclosed to another governmental entity or its agents, employees, or contractors if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to perform its duties and responsibilities. The receiving governmental entity and its agents, employees, and contractors shall maintain the confidential and exempt status of the ~~such~~ numbers.

5. An agency may ~~shall~~ not deny a commercial entity engaged in the performance of a commercial activity as defined in s. 14.203 or its agents, employees, or contractors access to social security numbers, provided the social security numbers will be used only in the normal course of business for legitimate business purposes, and provided the commercial entity makes a written request for social security numbers, verified as provided in s. 92.525, legibly signed by an authorized officer, employee, or agent of the commercial entity. The verified written request must contain the commercial entity's name, business mailing and location addresses, business telephone number, and a statement of the specific purposes for which it needs the social security numbers and how the social security numbers will be used in the normal course of business for legitimate business purposes. The aggregate of these requests shall serve as the basis for the agency report

required in subparagraph 8. An agency may request any other information reasonably necessary to verify the identity of the entity requesting the social security numbers and the specific purposes for which ~~the~~ such numbers will be used; however, an agency has no duty to inquire beyond the information contained in the verified written request. A legitimate business purpose includes verification of the accuracy of personal information received by a commercial entity in the normal course of its business; use in a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding; use for insurance purposes; use in law enforcement and investigation of crimes; use in identifying and preventing fraud; use in matching, verifying, or retrieving information; and use in research activities. A legitimate business purpose does not include the display or bulk sale of social security numbers to the general public or the distribution of such numbers to any customer that is not identifiable by the distributor.

6. Any person who makes a false representation in order to obtain a social security number pursuant to this paragraph, or any person who willfully and knowingly violates this paragraph, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Any public officer who violates this paragraph is guilty of a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500. A commercial entity that provides access to public records containing social security numbers in accordance with this paragraph is not subject to the penalty provisions of this subparagraph.

7.a. On or after October 1, 2002, a person preparing or filing a document to be recorded in the official records by the county recorder as provided for in chapter 28 may not include any person's social security number in that document, unless otherwise expressly required by law. If a social security number is or has been included in a document presented to the county recorder for recording in the official records of the county before, on, or after October 1, 2002, it may be made available as part of the official record available for public inspection and copying.

b. Any person, or his or her attorney or legal guardian, has the right to request that a county recorder remove, from an image or copy of an official record placed on a county recorder's publicly available Internet website or a publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to display public records or otherwise made electronically available to the general public by such recorder, his or her social security number contained in that official record. ~~The~~ Such request must be made in writing, legibly signed by the requester and delivered by mail, facsimile, or electronic transmission, or delivered in person, to the county recorder. The request must specify the identification page number that contains the social security number to be redacted. The county recorder has no duty to inquire beyond the written request to verify the identity of a person requesting redaction. A fee may ~~shall~~ not be charged for the redaction of a social security number pursuant to such request.

c. A county recorder shall immediately and conspicuously post signs throughout his or her offices for public viewing and shall immediately and conspicuously post, on any Internet website or remote electronic site made available by the county recorder and used for the ordering or display of

official records or images or copies of official records, a notice stating, in substantially similar form, the following:

(I) On or after October 1, 2002, any person preparing or filing a document for recordation in the official records may not include a social security number in such document, unless required by law.

(II) Any person has a right to request a county recorder to remove, from an image or copy of an official record placed on a county recorder's publicly available Internet website or on a publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to display public records or otherwise made electronically available to the general public, any social security number contained in an official record. Such request must be made in writing and delivered by mail, facsimile, or electronic transmission, or delivered in person, to the county recorder. The request must specify the identification page number that contains the social security number to be redacted. A No fee may not will be charged for the redaction of a social security number pursuant to such a request.

d. Until January 1, 2008 2007, if a social security number, made confidential and exempt pursuant to this paragraph, or a complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number made exempt pursuant to paragraph (b) is or has been included in a court file, such number may be included as part of the court record available for public inspection and copying unless redaction is requested by the holder of such number, or by the holder's attorney or legal guardian, in a signed, legibly written request specifying the case name, case number, document heading, and page number. The request must be delivered by mail, facsimile, electronic transmission, or in person to the clerk of the circuit court. The clerk of the circuit court does not have a duty to inquire beyond the written request to verify the identity of a person requesting redaction. A fee may not be charged for the redaction of a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number pursuant to such request. The clerk of the circuit court has no liability for the inadvertent release of confidential and exempt social security numbers or exempt bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers, unknown to the clerk of the circuit court in court records filed with the clerk of the circuit court on or before January 1, 2008.

e. Any person who prepares or files a document to be recorded in the official records by the county recorder as provided in chapter 28 may not include a person's social security number or complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number in that document unless otherwise expressly required by law. Until January 1, 2008 2007, if a social security number or a complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number is or has been included in a document presented to the county recorder for recording in the official records of the county, such number may be made available as part of the official record available for public inspection and copying. Any person, or his or her attorney or legal guardian, may request that a county recorder remove from an image or copy of an official record placed on a county recorder's publicly available Internet website, or a publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to display public records outside the office or otherwise made electronically available outside the county recorder's office to the general public, his or her social security number or complete

account, debit, charge, or credit card number contained in that official record. Such request must be legibly written, signed by the requester, and delivered by mail, facsimile, electronic transmission, or in person to the county recorder. The request must specify the identification page number of the document that contains the number to be redacted. The county recorder does not have a duty to inquire beyond the written request to verify the identity of a person requesting redaction. A fee may not be charged for redacting such numbers. If the county recorder accepts or stores official records in an electronic format, the county recorder must use his or her best efforts to redact all social security numbers and complete bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers from electronic copies of the official record. The use of an automated program for redaction shall be deemed the best effort and complies with the requirements of this sub-subparagraph. The county recorder is not liable for the inadvertent release of confidential and exempt social security numbers, or exempt bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers, filed with the county recorder on or before January 1, 2008.

f. Subparagraphs 2. and 3. do not apply to the clerks of the court or the county recorder with respect to circuit court records and official records.

g. On January 1, ~~2008~~ 2007, and thereafter, the clerk of the circuit court and the county recorder must keep complete bank account, debit, charge, and credit card numbers exempt as provided for in paragraph (b), and must keep social security numbers confidential and exempt as provided for in subparagraph 3., without any person having to request redaction.

8. Beginning January 31, 2004, and each January 31 thereafter, every agency must file a report with the Secretary of State, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives listing the identity of all commercial entities that have requested social security numbers during the preceding calendar year and the specific purpose or purposes stated by each commercial entity regarding its need for social security numbers. If no disclosure requests were made, the agency shall so indicate.

9. Any affected person may petition the circuit court for an order directing compliance with this paragraph.

10. This paragraph does not supersede any other applicable public records exemptions existing prior to May 13, 2002, or created thereafter.

11. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed October 2, 2007, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to section 119.071, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 1007.35, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1007.35 Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.—

(8)

(b) The department shall contribute to the evaluation process by providing access, consistent with s. 119.071(5)(a), to student and teacher information necessary to match against databases containing teacher professional development data and databases containing assessment data for the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, AP, and other appropriate measures. The department shall also provide student-level data on student progress from middle school through high school and into college and the workforce, if available, in order to support longitudinal studies. The partnership shall analyze and report student performance data in a manner that protects the rights of students and parents as required in 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g and s. 1002.22.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor June 22, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 22, 2006.