

## CHAPTER 2014-37

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 993

An act relating to public records; providing an exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information of certain animal researchers at public research facilities, including state universities; providing for retroactive applicability of the exemption; providing for future legislative 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. (1) Personal identifying information of a person employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a public research facility, including a state university, that conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to animal research, is exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution, when such information is contained in the following records:

- (a) Animal records, including animal care and treatment records.
- (b) Research protocols and approvals.
- (c) Purchasing, funding, and billing records related to animal research or activities.
- (d) Animal care and use committee records.
- (e) Facility and laboratory records related to animal research or activities.

(2) This exemption applies to personal identifying information as described in subsection (1) held by a public research facility, including a state university, before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

(3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that personal identifying information of a person who is employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a public research facility, including a state university, that conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to animal research, be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature also finds that it is a public necessity that this exemption apply to such personal identifying information held by a public research facility, including a state university, before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption. The Legislature finds

that the release of such personal identifying information will place such persons in danger of threats and harassment as well as physical and emotional harm from those who advocate against such research. University employees have been harassed and threatened after animal care records that included their personal identifying information were disclosed pursuant to public records requests. Thus, the Legislature finds that the harm and threat to such persons' safety that results from the release of personal identifying information in records about the animals or about the animal research outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the information. The public research facilities, including state universities, remain responsible and accountable for the animal research conducted at their institutions.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2014.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 12, 2014.