

CHAPTER 2017-66

House Bill No. 7093

An act relating to a review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; amending s. 119.071, F.S., which provides exemptions from public record requirements for certain personal identifying and location information of specified agency personnel, and the spouses and children thereof; revising the exemptions; removing redundant exemptions for social security numbers; providing an exemption from public record requirements for the names of the spouses and children of certain agency personnel; providing an exemption from public record requirements for the dates of birth for certain agency personnel and their spouses and children; removing the scheduled repeal of certain exemptions; providing for retroactive application; providing for future legislative review and repeal of certain exemptions; providing statements of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(4) AGENCY PERSONNEL INFORMATION.—

(d)1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “telephone numbers” includes home telephone numbers, personal cellular telephone numbers, personal pager telephone numbers, and telephone numbers associated with personal communications devices.

2.a.(F) The home addresses, telephone numbers, ~~social security numbers~~, dates of birth, and photographs of active or former sworn or civilian law enforcement personnel, including correctional and correctional probation officers, personnel of the Department of Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect, and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, ~~social security numbers~~, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance

with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

~~(II) The names of the spouses and children of active or former sworn or civilian law enforcement personnel and the other specified agency personnel identified in sub-sub-subparagraph (I) are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(III) Sub-sub-subparagraph (II) is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2018, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

b.(IV) The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative personnel of the Department of Financial Services whose duties include the investigation of fraud, theft, workers' compensation coverage requirements and compliance, other related criminal activities, or state regulatory requirement violations; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph ~~sub-sub-subparagraph~~ is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2021, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

c.b. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of firefighters certified in compliance with s. 633.408; the ~~names,~~ home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such firefighters; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such firefighters are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

d.e. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of current or former justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges; the ~~names,~~ home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former justices and judges; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former justices and judges are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

~~e.d.(I) The home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(II) The names of the spouses and children of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(III) Sub-sub-subparagraph (II) is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2018, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~f.e. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature if the general magistrate, special magistrate, judge of compensation claims, administrative law judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings, or child support hearing officer provides a written statement that the general magistrate, special magistrate, judge of compensation claims, administrative law judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings, or child support hearing officer has made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public.~~

~~g.f. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former human resource, labor relations, or employee relations directors, assistant directors, managers, or assistant managers of any local government agency or water management district~~

whose duties include hiring and firing employees, labor contract negotiation, administration, or other personnel-related duties; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

h.g. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former code enforcement officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

i.h. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former guardians ad litem, as defined in s. 39.820; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such persons; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such persons are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature, if the guardian ad litem provides a written statement that the guardian ad litem has made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public.

j.i. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, detention superintendents, assistant detention superintendents, juvenile justice detention officers I and II, juvenile justice detention officer supervisors, juvenile justice residential officers, juvenile justice residential officer supervisors I and II, juvenile justice counselors, juvenile justice counselor supervisors, human services counselor administrators, senior human services counselor administrators, rehabilitation therapists, and social services counselors of the Department of Juvenile Justice; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

k.j.(I) The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such defenders or counsel; and the names and locations of

schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such defenders or counsel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

~~(H) The names of the spouses and children of the specified agency personnel identified in sub-sub-paragraph (I) are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-sub-paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~l.k. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former investigators or inspectors of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such current or former investigators and inspectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such current or former investigators and inspectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the investigator or inspector has made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022 2017, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~m.l. The home addresses, and telephone numbers, and dates of birth of county tax collectors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such tax collectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such tax collectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the county tax collector has made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022 2017, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~n.m. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel of the Department of Health whose duties include, or result in, the determination or adjudication of eligibility for social security disability benefits, the investigation or prosecution of complaints filed against health care practitioners, or the inspection of health care practitioners or health care facilities licensed by the Department of Health; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the personnel have made~~

~~reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~n. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former impaired practitioner consultants who are retained by an agency or current or former employees of an impaired practitioner consultant whose duties result in a determination of a person's skill and safety to practice a licensed profession; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such consultants or their employees; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such consultants or employees are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if a consultant or employee has made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2020, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~o. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former emergency medical technicians or paramedics certified under chapter 401; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the emergency medical technicians or paramedics have made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2021, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

~~p. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel employed in an agency's office of inspector general or internal audit department whose duties include auditing or investigating waste, fraud, abuse, theft, exploitation, or other activities that could lead to criminal prosecution or administrative discipline; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the personnel have made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being accessible through other means available to the public. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand~~

repealed on October 2, 2021, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

3. An agency that is the custodian of the information specified in subparagraph 2. and that is not the employer of the officer, employee, justice, judge, or other person specified in subparagraph 2. shall maintain the exempt status of that information only if the officer, employee, justice, judge, other person, or employing agency of the designated employee submits a written request for maintenance of the exemption to the custodial agency.

4. The exemptions in this paragraph apply to information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

~~5. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this paragraph, this paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2017, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

Section 2. (1)(a) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the following information be made exempt from s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution:

1. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of active or former sworn or civilian law enforcement personnel, including correctional and correctional probation officers; personnel of the Department of Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities; personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect; and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement; the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel;

2. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of firefighters certified in compliance with s. 633.408, Florida Statutes; the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such firefighters; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such firefighters; and

3. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of current or former justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges; the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former justices and judges; and the names and

locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former justices and judges.

(b) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to exempt this information from s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution in order to prevent disclosure of information that can be used to identify or locate these governmental personnel and their spouses and children. These governmental personnel perform duties that can adversely affect the rights of members of the public. Adversely affected people and their families or friends may place blame on these governmental personnel for arrests, investigations, or judicial intervention. Governmental personnel may also be threatened or harmed by victims who believe governmental personnel did not adequately perform their duties. Such governmental personnel are subject to threats and violence on and off duty, and these threats persist after such personnel leave work. The threat of danger and revenge extend to the spouses and children of these governmental personnel.

(c) Furthermore, the combination of personal identification and location information can be used as a tool to perpetuate fraud against these governmental personnel and to acquire sensitive personal, financial, medical, and familial information, the release of which could cause great financial harm to these individuals and their families. Identity theft can also harm these governmental personnel and their families' reputations. It is in the public interest to protect fully these governmental employees and their families and to ensure that their identifying and location information is exempt from public disclosure when it is held by an entity in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of government.

(2)(a) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to exempt the names of the children and spouses of the following governmental personnel from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution:

1. Firefighters certified in compliance with s. 633.408, Florida Statutes;
2. Current or former justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges; and
3. General magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers.

(b) Such personnel are often required to interact with members of the public who are in difficult circumstances. These personnel and their families are subject to threats by members of the public who may seek revenge against them. Allowing public access to the names of children and spouses of such personnel will make the children and spouses of these personnel easy to find and expose them to threats or acts of revenge. Threats or acts of revenge against the children and spouses of such personnel could compromise the

governmental personnel's ability to perform their duties without fear of retaliation.

(3)(a) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to make the following information exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution, regardless of whether such individuals made reasonable efforts to protect such information from being public:

1. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers.

2. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former guardians ad litem, as defined in s. 39.820, Florida Statutes; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such persons; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such persons.

3. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former investigators or inspectors of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former investigators and inspectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former investigators and inspectors.

4. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of county tax collectors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such tax collectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such tax collectors.

5. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel of the Department of Health whose duties include, or result in, the determination or adjudication of eligibility for social security disability benefits, the investigation or prosecution of complaints filed against health care practitioners, or the inspection of health care practitioners or health care facilities licensed by the Department of Health; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and

places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel.

6. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former impaired practitioner consultants who are retained by an agency or current or former employees of an impaired practitioner consultant whose duties result in a determination of a person's skill and safety to practice a licensed profession; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such consultants or their employees; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such consultants or employees.

7. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former emergency medical technicians or paramedics certified under chapter 401; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics.

8. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel employed in an agency's office of inspector general or internal audit department whose duties include auditing or investigating waste, fraud, abuse, theft, exploitation, or other activities that could lead to criminal prosecution or administrative discipline; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel.

(b) The Legislature finds that exempting identifying and location information from public disclosure requirements protects such personnel and their spouses and children from danger of physical and emotional harm from disgruntled criminal defendants, litigants, licensees, taxpayers, and other members of the public. Such personnel may be subject to threats or acts of revenge because of the duties they perform. The spouses and children of such personnel are also endangered by people who may seek to intimidate or harm such personnel. In addition, criminals could use identification and location information for identity theft that can cause financial harm to these personnel and their spouses and children. The harm that might result from the release of exempt information outweighs any public benefit that could be derived from disclosure. For these reasons, the exemptions should be applied without requiring such personnel prove that they have not made their information public.

(c) In addition, requiring these personnel prove that they made reasonable efforts to protect their identification and location information is an added burden on these individuals as well as on agencies receiving a public

records request. The extent to which these individuals must protect their information from public accessibility is unclear. It is also unclear how much proof an agency needs in order to grant the exemption. The burden on an agency to verify whether these individuals have protected from public disclosure their identifying and location information adversely impacts the effective and efficient administration of government in establishing who is eligible for an exemption. Relatively few public record exemptions require an individual to prove that he or she made reasonable efforts to protect his or her information from being available to the public. Such inconsistencies among public record exemptions reduce accuracy and efficiency when redacting exempt information when a public records request for agency personnel information is made. It is not in the public interest for the public to receive inaccurately redacted information.

(4)(a) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the dates of birth of the following people be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution:

1. Current or former investigators or inspectors of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and their spouses and children; and
2. County tax collectors and their spouses and children.

(b) Dates of birth can be used as a tool to perpetuate fraud against an individual and to acquire sensitive personal, financial, medical, and familial information, the release of which could cause great financial harm to an individual and his or her family. Identity theft can also be used to harm their reputations and good name.

(5) The Legislature finds that the amendments to s. 119.071(4)(d), Florida Statutes, made by this act are necessary to bring greater uniformity among public record exemptions for agency personnel information because exempted information currently varies from exemption to exemption. Inconsistencies between public record exemptions for agency personnel information result in increased inaccuracy and inefficiency when information must be redacted in response to a public record request. Unnecessary complexity increases the likelihood that public record custodians may inaccurately redact information in a record. As a result, the public could receive an improperly redacted record that contains information that is not exempt or have access to exempt information that should have been redacted. It is not in the interest of the public to receive inaccurately redacted information, or to unnecessarily pay fees for staff time associated with redacting extraneous information. In addition, the accidental release of personal identifying and location information can endanger personnel or otherwise negate the purpose of the exemption.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2017.