

## CHAPTER 2020-148

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 406

An act relating to public records; creating s. 390.01118, F.S.; providing a public records exemption for information that could identify a minor which is contained in a record held by the court relating to the minor's petition to waive consent requirements to obtain an abortion; providing for future legislative review and repeal under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; providing a statement of public necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 390.01118, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

390.01118 Public records exemptions; minors seeking waiver of consent requirements.—Any information that can be used to identify a minor who is petitioning a circuit court for a judicial waiver, as provided in s. 390.01114, of the consent requirements under the Parental Notice of and Consent for Abortion Act is:

(1) Confidential and exempt from s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, if held by a circuit court or an appellate court.

(2) Confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, if held by the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel or the Justice Administrative Commission.

This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to keep confidential and exempt from public disclosure information contained in a court record which could be used to identify a minor who is petitioning the court for a waiver from the statutory requirement that a parent or legal guardian give consent before the minor may obtain an abortion. The information contained in these records is of a sensitive, personal nature regarding a minor petitioner, release of which could harm the reputation of the minor, as well as jeopardize her safety. Disclosure of this information could jeopardize the safety of the minor in instances when child abuse or child sexual abuse against her is present by exposing her to further acts of abuse from an abuser who, if the information was not held confidential, could learn of her pregnancy, her plans to obtain an abortion, and her petition to the court.

(2) The Legislature further finds that it is a public necessity to keep this identifying information in records held by the court confidential and exempt in order to protect the privacy of the minor. The State Constitution contains an express right of privacy in s. 23 of Article I. Further, the United States Supreme Court has repeatedly required parental-consent laws to contain judicial-bypass procedures and to preserve confidentiality at every level of court proceedings in order to protect the privacy rights of the minor. Without the confidentiality and exemption provided in this act, the disclosure of personal identifying information would violate the right of privacy of the minor and would place the constitutionality of the state's program providing for a judicial waiver of consent in question. Thus, the confidentiality and exemption provided by this act are necessary for the effective administration of the Parental Consent for Abortion Act, for which administration would be impaired without the exemption.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that SB 404 or similar legislation takes effect if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

Approved by the Governor June 30, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 30, 2020.