

## CHAPTER 2021-19

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 327

An act relating to public records; amending s. 252.385, F.S.; creating an exemption from public records requirements for the address and telephone number of persons provided public emergency shelter and held by the agency that provided the emergency shelter; 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. Subsection (5) is added to section 252.385, Florida Statutes, to read:

252.385 Public shelter space; public records exemption.—

(5) The address and telephone number of a person provided public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic event and held by the agency, as defined in s. 119.011, that provided the emergency shelter is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2026, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the address and telephone number of a person who was provided public emergency shelter during a storm or other catastrophic event be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Emergency shelters are made available to the public to provide a safe place of accommodation before, during, and immediately following storms or other catastrophic events. During these emergency events, those affected are in a vulnerable state, as they have voluntarily displaced themselves from their residences and possessions to seek refuge. The information submitted to an agency by such a person seeking emergency shelter during a storm or other catastrophic event could be used by persons seeking to take advantage of their vulnerability during or following the emergency. In addition, those seeking emergency shelter for their safety and the safety of their families should not be forced to forfeit their privacy for the sake of such safety. Therefore, the Legislature finds that the need to protect the address and telephone number of individuals seeking emergency shelter is sufficiently compelling to override this state's public policy of open government and that the protection of such information cannot be accomplished without this exemption.

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

Approved by the Governor May 7, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 7, 2021.