

## CHAPTER 2022-125

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1526

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.0714, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information and annuity contract numbers of a payee of a structured settlement and the names of family members, dependents, and beneficiaries of such payee contained in the court records for a proceeding for the approval of the transfer of structured settlement payment rights; limiting such exemption to a specified period; 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. Paragraph (l) is added to subsection (1) of section 119.0714, Florida Statutes, to read:

119.0714 Court files; court records; official records.—

(1) COURT FILES.—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt from s. 119.07(1) a public record that was made a part of a court file and that is not specifically closed by order of court, except:

(l) Personal identifying information and annuity contract numbers of a payee of a structured settlement as defined in s. 626.99296(2) and the names of family members, dependents, and beneficiaries of such payee contained within a court file relating to a proceeding for the approval of the transfer of structured settlement payment rights under s. 626.99296. Such information shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution during the pendency of the transfer proceeding and for 6 months after the final court order approving, or not approving, the transferee's application. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the personal identifying information and annuity contract numbers of a payee of a structured settlement and the names of family members, dependents, and beneficiaries of such payee be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Recipients of structured settlements have been targets of criminal and fraudulent acts based upon publicly available identifying information and are especially vulnerable during transfer proceedings to fraudulent actors purporting to be from legitimate entities. These fraudulent actors may use such information to intercept transfer payments or obtain other sensitive information, such as bank account and social security numbers. The Legislature finds that the

harm that may result from the release of personal identifying information and annuity contract numbers of a payee of a structured settlement and the names of family members, dependents, and beneficiaries of such payee outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of such information during the specified period.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor May 18, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 18, 2022.