

## CHAPTER 2024-106

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 988

An act relating to public records; creating s. 215.5587, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for certain information contained in applications and home inspection reports submitted by applicants to the Department of Financial Services as a part of the My Safe Florida Home Program; providing retroactive applicability; 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. Section 215.5587, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

215.5587 My Safe Florida Home Program; public records exemption.—

(1) All of the following information contained in applications and home inspection reports submitted by applicants as part of the My Safe Florida Home Program under s. 215.5586 is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

(a) The components of the applicant's mailing address other than the city and zip code and the applicant's name.

(b) Any phone number or e-mail address provided by the applicant.

(c) Detailed descriptions and pictures of the inside and outside of applicant's homes.

(2) This exemption applies retroactively to applications and home inspection reports submitted 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(3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the following information contained in applications and home inspection reports submitted by applicants as part of the My Safe Florida Home Program be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution: an applicant's name, certain components of his or her mailing address, an applicant's phone number or e-mail address, as well as descriptions and pictures of the inside and outside of an applicant's home. The Legislature further finds that it is a public necessity that the public records exemption be applied retroactively. More than 99 percent of all home

inspections and grant applications are completed electronically or by phone. Under current law, My Safe Florida Home Program applications and home inspection reports are public records and can be obtained by anyone for any purpose. This information is unique to each individual and can be used for identity theft, consumer scams, unwanted solicitations, or other invasive contact. Additionally, My Safe Florida Home Program applications and home inspection reports contain detailed descriptions and pictures of the inside and outside of applicants' homes, including private areas, points of entry, and other vulnerabilities. The public availability of this information puts participants in the My Safe Florida Home Program at increased risk of home invasions and reduces privacy in their homes. These risks may be significantly limited by making such information contained in My Safe Florida Home Program applications and home inspection reports exempt from public records requirements.

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

Approved by the Governor April 24, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 24, 2024.