

# CHAPTER 2024-111

## Senate Bill No. 548

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.071, F.S.; defining terms; providing an exemption from public records requirements for identification and location information of certain current and former military personnel and their spouses and dependents; providing for retroactive application of the exemption; 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 (k) is added to subsection (5) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, to read:

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

(5) OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

(k)1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

a. “Identification and location information” means the:

(I) Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of current and former military personnel, and the telephone numbers associated with the personal communication devices of current and former military personnel.

(II) Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of the spouses and dependents of current and former military personnel, and the telephone numbers associated with the personal communication devices of such spouses and dependents.

(III) Names and locations of schools attended by the spouses of current and former military personnel and schools or day care facilities attended by dependents of current and former military personnel.

b. “Military personnel” means persons employed by the United States Department of Defense who are authorized to access information that is deemed “secret” or “top secret” by the Federal Government or who are servicemembers of a special operations force.

c. “Special operations force” has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(22).

2. Identification and location information held by an agency is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if the current or

former military personnel member submits to an agency that has custody of the identification and location information:

a. A written request to exempt the identification and location information from public disclosure; and

b. A written statement that he or she has made reasonable efforts to protect the identification and location information from being accessible through other means available to the public.

3. This exemption applies to identification and location information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

4. This paragraph 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 identification and location information of current and former military personnel, and of their spouses and dependents, which is held by an agency be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Military personnel perform among the most critical, most effective, and most dangerous operations in defense of our nation's freedom. Terrorist groups have threatened military personnel and their families and have encouraged terrorist sympathizers to harm military personnel and their families within the United States. One terrorist group has allegedly gathered the photographs and home addresses of military personnel from public sources to create and publish a list of military personnel in order to make such persons vulnerable to an act of terrorism. The Legislature finds that allowing continued public access to the identification and location information of current and former military personnel and their families jeopardizes the safety of these personnel, their spouses, and their dependents. The Legislature finds that protecting the safety and security of current and former military personnel, and their spouses and dependents, outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the public disclosure of the identification and location information.

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

Approved by the Governor April 26, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 26, 2024.