

## CHAPTER 2024-255

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 23

An act relating to public records; creating s. 16.64, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for the personal identifying information in an application submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs by a person seeking compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program; providing exceptions; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; 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 16.64, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

16.64 Applications for compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program; public records exemption.—

(1) Any names, dates of birth, driver license numbers, home addresses, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, or electronic mail addresses in an application submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs by a person seeking compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.

(2) The information made confidential and exempt under subsection (1) may be released to the Department of Education for the purpose of facilitating the award of standard high school diplomas to persons compensated through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program in accordance with law.

(3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.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 any names, dates of birth, driver license numbers, home addresses, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, or electronic mail addresses in an application submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs by a person seeking compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature finds that the release of such personal identifying information could subject the persons applying for compensation through

the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program to the possibility of harassment and to further trauma should their status as a victim of the Dozier School for Boys or the Okeechobee School, or the nature of the abuse each victim suffered there, be made public. The Legislature further finds that a victim of the Dozier School for Boys or the Okeechobee School may be more likely to come forward and apply for compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program if the personal identifying information in the application is protected from public disclosure. The Legislature finds that the harm that may result from the release of such information outweighs the public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of such information.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that CS/HB 21 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 21, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2024.