

By Senator Bracy

11-00361-18

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to public records; creating s.  
3       787.065, F.S.; providing for closed hearings in  
4       certain civil actions upon the request of victims;  
5       providing for redaction and sealing of personal  
6       identifying information of victims of human  
7       trafficking upon request; exempting from public  
8       records requirements the redacted and sealed  
9       information; exempting from public records  
10      requirements the personal identifying information of  
11      victims of human trafficking; providing for future  
12      review and repeal of the exemptions; providing a  
13      statement of public necessity; providing a contingent  
14      effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18       Section 1. Section 787.065, Florida Statutes, is created to  
19      read:

20       787.065 Public records exemption for victims of human  
21 trafficking.—At the request of the victim, court hearings  
22 conducted pursuant to s. 787.063 must be closed to the public,  
23 and any personal identifying information of the victim of human  
24 trafficking must be redacted or sealed in the court file and  
25 online docket for such hearings. Such redacted or sealed  
26 information in the court file and online docket is confidential  
27 and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
28 Constitution. This section is subject to the Open Government  
29 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand

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30 repealed on October 2, 2023, unless reviewed and saved from  
31 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

32 Section 2. (1) The Legislature finds that hearings  
33 conducted pursuant to s. 787.063, Florida Statutes, for victims  
34 of human trafficking should be closed to the public at the  
35 request of the victim. Preventing public access to such hearings  
36 will allow victims of human trafficking to seek relief in the  
37 courts of the state without exposing their victimization to the  
38 public and will protect their identities as they continue to  
39 recover from their time as victims of human trafficking. For  
40 these reasons, the Legislature finds that it is a public  
41 necessity that, upon the request of the victim, hearings  
42 conducted pursuant to s. 787.063, Florida Statutes, be closed to  
43 the public.

44 (2) The Legislature further finds that any personal  
45 identifying information of victims of human trafficking which,  
46 upon request, is redacted from or sealed in the court files and  
47 online dockets of actions brought by victims of human  
48 trafficking under s. 787.063, Florida Statutes, should be made  
49 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and  
50 s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The identity of  
51 these victims and the details of their victimization are  
52 information of a sensitive, personal nature. As such, this  
53 exemption serves to minimize the trauma to victims because the  
54 release of such information would compound the tragedy already  
55 visited upon their lives and would be defamatory or cause  
56 unwarranted damage to the good name and reputation of the  
57 victims. For these reasons, the Legislature finds that it is a  
58 public necessity that any personal identifying information of

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59 victims of human trafficking which, upon request, is redacted or  
60 sealed in the court files and online dockets of actions by  
61 victims of human trafficking under s. 787.063, Florida Statutes,  
62 be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida  
63 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.

64 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that  
65 SB \_\_\_ or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation  
66 is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension  
67 thereof and becomes a law.