

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2013 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Ethics and Elections

CS/SB 4 — Public Records and Meetings/Commission on Ethics

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Ethics and Elections Committee

CS/SB 4 is the public records exemption companion bill to the omnibus ethics act (Chapter 2013-36, L.O.F.). Among other things, the new ethics laws allow the Commission on Ethics ("Commission") to initiate investigations upon receipt of a referral from the Governor, Department of Law Enforcement, a state attorney, or a U.S. Attorney. In order to investigate a referral, six members of the Commission must vote in favor of initiating the investigation. CS/SB 4 exempts from the public records and open meetings laws any records and proceedings of the Commission related to a referral or a preliminary investigation initiated by a referral. These exemptions apply until the Commission determines that it will not investigate a matter, until it determines whether probable cause exists to believe a violation occurred, or until the subject of the referral waives the right to confidentiality.

These provisions became law without the Governor's signature and took effect May 1, 2013.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 112-1