Florida House of Representatives - 2000

HB 1869

By the Committee on Family Law & Children and Representatives Roberts, Crow, Wallace, Effman and Detert

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| 1 | A bill to be entitled |
| 2 | An act relating to public records; creating s. |
| 3 | 753.06, F.S.; providing an exemption from |
| 4 | public records requirements for certain |
| 5 | information held by the Clearinghouse on |
| 6 | Supervised Visitation and the supervised |
| 7 | visitation centers which facilitate safe |
| 8 | contact between nonresidential parents and |
| 9 | their children; providing for future review and |
| 10 | repeal; providing a finding of public |
| 11 | necessity; providing a contingent effective |
| 12 | date. |
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| 14 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: |
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| 16 | Section 1. Section 753.06, Florida Statutes, is |
| 17 | created to read: |
| 18 | 753.06 The home addresses, telephone numbers, social |
| 19 | security numbers, and photographs of employees and volunteers |
| 20 | of any certified supervised visitation program; the home |
| 21 | addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, |
| 22 | photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and |
| 23 | children of such persons; and the names and locations of |
| 24 | schools and day care facilities attended by the children of |
| 25 | such persons, held by the Clearinghouse on Supervised |
| 26 | Visitation and supervised visitation centers, are confidential |
| 27 | and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State |
| 28 | Constitution. However, any governmental agency that is |
| 29 | authorized to have access to such information by any provision |
| 30 | of law shall be granted such access in the furtherance of its |
| 31 | statutory duties, notwithstanding the provisions of this |
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section, and shall retain the confidentiality of such 1 information as provided herein. This section is subject to 2 3 the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2005, 4 5 unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by 6 the Legislature. 7 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public 8 necessity that personal information about employees and 9 volunteers of certified supervised visitation programs be held confidential and exempt from the public records laws of this 10 11 state because employees and volunteers in such programs 12 encounter clients who may at times become angry or upset with 13 the order of supervised visitation or the circumstances under 14 which it is required. If any of these individuals gains access to the personal information specified in this act, the 15 16 individual could use that information to threaten, intimidate, 17 harass, or cause physical harm or other injury to the employees and volunteers, or to their families. This concern 18 19 is not mere speculation. Incidents have occurred in which 20 clients of supervised visitation programs have threatened, intimidated, and harassed employees of a supervised visitation 21 22 program. Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the personal information of employees and 23 volunteers of certified supervised visitation programs be held 24 confidential and exempt from disclosure pursuant to the open 25 26 records laws of this state, in order to protect the health, 27 safety, and welfare of these employees and volunteers and 28 their families. In addition, the Legislature finds that it is 29 a public necessity that personal information about employees and volunteers of certified supervised visitation programs be 30 held confidential and exempt from public records laws of this 31

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state because, without such an exemption, certified supervised visitation programs may be unable to obtain qualified employees or volunteers due to safety concerns, thus impeding the effective and efficient administration of the programs. These exemptions are consistent with the long-standing policy of the state under s. 119.07(3)(i), Florida Statutes. Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that House Bill or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof. HOUSE SUMMARY Provides an exemption from public records requirements for information held by the Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation and supervised visitation centers, relating to employees and volunteers of such programs and the persons they serve in facilitating safe contact between nonresidential parents and their children. Provides for future review and repeal.

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