Florida Senate - 2005

By Senator Argenziano

3-1665-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to public records exemptions;
3	creating s. 288.961, F.S.; clarifying the
4	public records exemption relating to trade
5	secrets for proprietary confidential business
6	information owned or controlled by the
7	not-for-profit corporation operating the
8	Florida Vaccine Research Institute and its
9	subsidiaries; expanding the public records
10	exemption to include information received from
11	a person in this or another state or nation or
12	the Federal Government which is otherwise
13	exempt or confidential under the laws of this
14	or another state or nation or under federal
15	law; providing for future review and repeal;
16	providing a statement of public necessity;
17	providing an effective date.
18	
19	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
20	
21	Section 1. Section 288.961, Florida Statutes, is
22	created to read:
23	288.961 Confidentiality of the records of the
24	not-for-profit corporation that governs and operates the
25	<u>Florida Vaccine Research Institute</u>
26	(1)(a) Records of the not-for-profit corporation that
27	governs and operates the Florida Vaccine Research Institute
28	and of its subsidiaries are public records unless made
29	confidential or exempt by law.
30	(b) Proprietary confidential business information is
31	confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
	1

1	of the State Constitution. However, the Auditor General, the
2	Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
3	Accountability, and the Florida Board of Governors, pursuant
4	to their oversight and auditing functions, must be given
5	access to all proprietary confidential business information
6	upon request and without subpoena and must maintain the
7	confidentiality of information so received.
8	(c) As used in this subsection, the term "proprietary
9	confidential business information means information,
10	regardless of its form or characteristics, that:
11	1. Is owned or controlled by the not-for-profit
12	corporation that governs and operates the Florida Vaccine
13	<u>Research Institute or its subsidiaries;</u>
14	2. Is intended to be and is treated by the
15	not-for-profit corporation that governs and operates the
16	<u>Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its subsidiaries as</u>
17	private;
18	3. Would harm the business operations of the
19	not-for-profit corporation that governs and operates the
20	Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its subsidiaries if
21	disclosed;
22	4. Has not been intentionally disclosed by the
23	corporation that governs and operates the Florida Vaccine
24	<u>Research Institute or its subsidiaries unless pursuant to law,</u>
25	an order of a court or administrative body, a legislative
26	proceeding pursuant to s. 5, Art. III of the State
27	Constitution, or a private agreement that provides that the
28	information may be released to the public; and
29	5. Is information concerning:
30	a. Internal auditing controls and reports of internal
31	auditors;

1	b. Matters reasonably encompassed in privileged
2	attorney-client communications;
3	c. Bids or other contractual data, banking records,
4	and credit agreements the disclosure of which would impair the
5	efforts of the not-for-profit corporation that governs and
6	operates the Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its
7	subsidiaries to contract for goods or services on favorable
8	terms;
9	d. Information relating to private contractual data,
10	the disclosure of which would impair the competitive interest
11	of the provider of the information;
12	e. Corporate officer and employee personnel
13	information;
14	f. Information relating to the proceedings and records
15	of credentialing panels and committees and of the governing
16	board of the not-for-profit corporation that governs and
17	operates the Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its
18	subsidiaries relating to credentialing;
19	g. Minutes of meetings of the governing board of the
20	not-for-profit corporation that governs and operates the
21	Florida Vaccine Research Institute and its subsidiaries,
22	except minutes of meetings open to the public pursuant to
23	subsection (2);
24	h. Information that reveals plans for marketing
25	services that the corporation that operates and governs the
26	<u>Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its subsidiaries</u>
27	reasonably expect to be provided by competitors;
28	i. Trade secrets as defined in s. 688.002, including
29	reimbursement methodologies or rates; or
30	j. The identity of donors or prospective donors of
31	property who wish to remain anonymous or any information

Florida Senate - 2005 3-1665-05

1	identifying such donors or prospective donors. The anonymity
2	of these donors or prospective donors must be maintained in
3	the auditor's report.
4	(2) Meetings of the governing board of the
5	not-for-profit corporation that governs and operates the
6	Florida Vaccine Research Institute and meetings of the
7	subsidiaries of that not-for-profit corporation at which the
8	expenditure of funds appropriated to the not-for-profit
9	corporation by the state are discussed or reported must be
10	open to the public in accordance with s. 286.011 and s. 24(b),
11	Art. I of the State Constitution, unless made confidential or
12	exempt by law. Other meetings of the governing board of the
13	not-for-profit corporation that operates and governs the
14	Florida Vaccine Research Institute and of the subsidiaries of
15	the not-for-profit corporation are exempt from s. 286.011 and
16	s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.
17	(3) This section is subject to the Open Government
18	Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and
19	shall stand repealed on October 2, 2010, unless reviewed and
20	saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.
21	Section 2. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a
22	public necessity that trade secrets of the not-for-profit
23	corporation that governs and operates the Florida Vaccine
24	Research Institute or its subsidiaries be confidential and
25	exempt from public disclosure. In accordance with that
26	definition, a "trade secret" consists of information that
27	derives actual or potential economic value from not being
28	readily ascertainable by others and is the subject of
29	reasonable efforts to maintain its secrecy. The Legislature
30	has determined that "trade secrets" may include information
31	relating to research discoveries and business transactions

1	resulting from research discoveries and that the disclosure of
2	such information would adversely affect the not-for-profit
3	corporation that governs and operates the Florida Vaccine
4	Research Institute and its subsidiaries, which are resources
5	of the state of Florida, and would create an unfair
6	competitive advantage to a person receiving such information.
7	(2) Pursuant to section 119.15, Florida Statutes, the
8	Legislature finds that the amendment to subparagraph
9	1004.43(8)(b)10., Florida Statutes, referencing information
10	relating to methods of manufacture or production, potential
11	trade secrets, potentially patentable materials, or
12	proprietary information received, generated, ascertained, or
13	discovered during the course of research conducted by the
14	not-for-profit corporation that governs and operates the
15	<u>Florida Vaccine Research Institute or any of its subsidiaries,</u>
16	and business transactions resulting from such research, does
17	not substantially amend the existing exemption. The
18	Legislature finds and declares that each of the classes of
19	information specified meets the test of being a "trade secret"
20	within the meaning of the term as defined in section 688.002,
21	Florida Statutes. To fulfill its legislative mandate of
22	research, education, treatment, prevention, and the early
23	detection of flu-related diseases, an exemption of
24	confidential and proprietary information relating to business
25	transactions will allow the not-for-profit corporation that
26	governs and operates the Florida Vaccine Research Institute
27	and its subsidiaries to more effectively partner with other
28	researchers. Although information relating to business
29	transactions may not qualify as intellectual property, the
30	terms and pricing of a research transaction and, in some
31	cases, the very fact of a research transaction may be

1	considered confidential information concerning an entity. This
2	exemption will assure collaborating partners that their
3	confidential business information will remain confidential and
4	exempt from public disclosure if shared with the
5	not-for-profit corporation that operates and governs the
б	Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its subsidiaries. The
7	Legislature finds that the ability of the not-for-profit
8	corporation that governs and operates the Florida Vaccine
9	Research Institute and its subsidiaries to conduct meaningful
10	scientific research and meet their obligations will be
11	significantly impaired if certain proprietary business
12	information or scientific research is not made confidential
13	and exempt from public disclosure. Specifically, the
14	Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to make exempt
15	and confidential proprietary business information or
16	scientific research that relates to methods of manufacture or
17	production, potential trade secrets, patentable material,
18	actual trade secrets as defined in section 688.002, Florida
19	Statutes, or proprietary information received, generated,
20	ascertained, or discovered by or through the not-for-profit
21	corporation that operates and governs the Florida Vaccine
22	Research Institute and its subsidiaries because the disclosure
23	of this information would negate the benefit expected by
24	exposing valuable proprietary work to competitors. Business
25	transactions resulting from scientific research must be held
26	confidential and exempt from public records requirements
27	because the disclosure of such information would create an
28	unfair competitive advantage for the person receiving such
29	information. Such an advantage would adversely affect the
30	not-for-profit corporation that operates and governs the
31	Florida Vaccine Research Institute and its subsidiaries. If

б

1	confidential and exempt information regarding research in
2	progress were released pursuant to a public records request,
3	others would be allowed to derive benefit from the research
4	without compensation or reimbursement to the not-for-profit
5	corporation that operates and governs the Florida Vaccine
6	Research Institute or its subsidiaries. Without the exemptions
7	provided for in this act, the disclosure of confidential and
8	exempt information would place the not-for-profit corporation
9	that operates and governs the Florida Vaccine Research
10	Institute or its subsidiaries on an unequal footing in the
11	marketplace as compared with other research competitors whose
12	information is kept confidential and exempt. The Legislature
13	finds that disclosure of confidential and exempt information
14	would adversely affect the not-for-profit corporation that
15	operates and governs the Florida Vaccine Research Institute or
16	its subsidiaries in fulfilling the mission of research.
17	(3) The Legislature further finds that information
18	received by the not-for-profit corporation that operates and
19	governs the Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its
20	subsidiaries from a person in this or another state or nation
21	or the Federal Government which is otherwise exempt or
22	confidential under the laws of this or another state or nation
23	or under federal law should remain exempt or confidential
24	because the highly confidential nature of research
25	necessitates that the not-for-profit corporation that operates
26	and governs the Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its
27	subsidiaries be authorized to maintain the status of exempt or
28	confidential information received from the sponsors of
29	research. Without the exemptions provided for in this act, the
30	disclosure of exempt and confidential information would place
31	the not-for-profit corporation that operates and governs the

7

1	<u>Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its subsidiaries on an</u>
2	unequal footing in the marketplace as compared with its
3	private health care and medical research competitors that are
4	not required to disclose such exempt and confidential
5	information. The Legislature finds that the disclosure of such
б	exempt and confidential information would adversely affect the
7	not-for-profit corporation that operates and governs the
8	<u>Florida Vaccine Research Institute or its subsidiaries in</u>
9	fulfilling their mission of promoting research and development
10	for the prediction, treatment, prevention, and cure of
11	flu-related diseases.
12	Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
13	law.
14	
15	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
16	SENATE SUMMARY
17	Exempts certain information that constitutes "trade secrets" of the corporation that operates the Florida
18	Vaccine Research Institute and the corporation's subsidiaries and information received which is already
19	made confidential by the laws of this or another state or nation or under federal law from public-records
20	disclosure. Provides for future review and repeal of the exemption.
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	