FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

582-00601-11 20117074

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; amending s. 112.3215, F.S., which provides exemptions from public-records and public-meeting requirements for records and meetings related to audits and investigations conducted by the Commission on Ethics of alleged violations of certain lobbyist registration and reporting requirements; saving the exemptions from repeal under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; removing the scheduled repeal of the exemptions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 112.3215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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112.3215 Lobbying before the executive branch or the Constitution Revision Commission; registration and reporting; investigation by commission.—

(8) (a) The commission shall investigate every sworn complaint that is filed with it alleging that a person covered by this section has failed to register, has failed to submit a compensation report, or has knowingly submitted false information in any report or registration required in this section.

(b) All proceedings, the complaint, and other records relating to the investigation are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, and any meetings held pursuant to an investigation

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are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011(1) and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution either until the alleged violator requests in writing that such investigation and associated records and meetings be made public or until the commission determines, based on the investigation, whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation has occurred.

- (c) The commission shall investigate any lobbying firm, agency, officer, or employee upon receipt of information from a sworn complaint or from a random audit of lobbying reports indicating a possible violation other than a late-filed report.
- (d) Records relating to an audit conducted pursuant to this section or an investigation conducted pursuant to this section or s. 112.32155 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, and any meetings held pursuant to such an investigation or at which such an audit is discussed are exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution either until the lobbying firm requests in writing that such investigation and associated records and meetings be made public or until the commission determines there is probable cause that the audit reflects a violation of the reporting laws. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2011, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.