A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public records; amending s.
937.022, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
records requirements for names, addresses, telephone
numbers, and other identifying information of persons
who are or have been included in the Camo Alert
Voluntary Registry; providing for future legislative
review and repeal of the exemption; providing a
statement of public necessity; providing a contingent
effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
937.022, Florida Statutes, as created by HB 1051, is amended to
read:

937.022  Missing Endangered Persons Information
Clearinghouse.—

(3) The clearinghouse shall:

(d)1. Establish and maintain the Camo Alert Voluntary
Registry, a voluntary registration system to manage the
voluntary registration of at-risk veterans by a veteran or his
or her legal guardian. Only those veterans who have voluntarily
requested to participate in the Camo Alert system shall be
included in the Camo Alert Voluntary Registry. The system shall
also provide for the removal and expungement of an at-risk
veteran's registration and information from the registry upon
written request from the veteran or his or her legal guardian
within 30 days after the clearinghouse receives the written
request.

2. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and other
identifying information of persons who are or have been included
in the Camo Alert Voluntary Registry are confidential and exempt
from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
Constitution. This exemption is not waived by the release of
information about a listed persons when a Camo Alert is issued.
This subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset
Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed
on October 2, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the
Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
necessity that the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and
other identifying information of persons who are or have been
included in the Camo Alert Voluntary Registry be made exempt
from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of
the State Constitution. Such information is a private matter.
Public knowledge of such information could lead to
discrimination against the at-risk veteran, could discourage an
at-risk veteran from seeking the benefits of being included in
the registry, and could compromise the therapeutic process. An
at-risk veteran may not want his or her status as an at-risk person available to the public, and a lack of confidentiality could discourage such vulnerable person from registering. Also, an at-risk veteran may be involved in treatment, and therapeutic and treatment programs cannot operate efficiently and effectively if at-risk veterans are reluctant to participate because their identities as at-risk persons would be subject to inspection and review. The Legislature finds that the harm that may result from the release of the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and other identifying information of such persons outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the information.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that HB 1051 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.