

By Senator Martin

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to public records; amending s.  
119.071, F.S.; providing an exemption from public  
records requirements for the chair, commissioners, and  
hearing officers of the Public Employees Relations  
Commission; providing for retroactive application;  
providing for future legislative review and repeal of  
the exemption; providing for the reversion of  
specified statutory text under certain conditions;  
amending s. 447.205, F.S.; revising the exemption from  
public records requirements for draft orders and  
related written communications or the issuance of any  
order by the commission or its designees; providing  
for future legislative review and repeal of the  
exemption; providing for the reversion of specified  
statutory text under certain conditions; amending s.  
447.308, F.S.; providing an exemption from public  
records requirements for a showing of interest signed  
by the employees or group of employees who no longer  
desire to be represented by a certified bargaining  
agent; providing for future legislative review and  
repeal of the exemption; providing for the reversion  
of specified statutory text under certain conditions;  
providing statements of public necessity; providing an  
effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

119.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.—

(4) AGENCY PERSONNEL INFORMATION.—

(d)1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

a. "Home addresses" means the dwelling location at which an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing address, street address, parcel identification number, plot identification number, legal property description, neighborhood name and lot number, GPS coordinates, and any other descriptive property information that may reveal the home address.

b. "Judicial assistant" means a court employee assigned to the following class codes: 8140, 8150, 8310, and 8320.

c. "Telephone numbers" includes home telephone numbers, personal cellular telephone numbers, personal pager telephone numbers, and telephone numbers associated with personal communications devices.

2.a. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of active or former sworn law enforcement personnel or of active or former civilian personnel employed by a law enforcement agency, including correctional and correctional probation officers, personnel of the Department of Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect, and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement; the names, home

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

b. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative personnel of the Department of Financial Services whose duties include the investigation of fraud, theft, workers' compensation coverage requirements and compliance, other related criminal activities, or state regulatory requirement violations; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

c. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative personnel of the Office of Financial Regulation's Bureau of Financial Investigations whose duties include the investigation of fraud, theft, other related criminal activities, or state regulatory requirement violations; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

88           d. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,  
89 and photographs of current or former firefighters certified in  
90 compliance with s. 633.408; the names, home addresses, telephone  
91 numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment  
92 of the spouses and children of such firefighters; and the names  
93 and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the  
94 children of such firefighters are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and  
95 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

96           e. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone  
97 numbers of current or former justices of the Supreme Court,  
98 district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and  
99 county court judges and current judicial assistants; the names,  
100 home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of  
101 employment of the spouses and children of current or former  
102 justices and judges and current judicial assistants; and the  
103 names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended  
104 by the children of current or former justices and judges and of  
105 current judicial assistants are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.  
106 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph  
107 is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in  
108 accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2,  
109 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment  
110 by the Legislature.

111           f. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,  
112 and photographs of current or former state attorneys, assistant  
113 state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide  
114 prosecutors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers,  
115 photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the  
116 spouses and children of current or former state attorneys,

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

117 assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant  
118 statewide prosecutors; and the names and locations of schools  
119 and day care facilities attended by the children of current or  
120 former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide  
121 prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors are exempt from  
122 s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

123 g. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone  
124 numbers of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of  
125 compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division  
126 of Administrative Hearings, ~~and~~ child support enforcement  
127 hearing officers, and the chair, commissioners, and hearing  
128 officers of the Public Employees Relations Commission; the  
129 names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and  
130 places of employment of the spouses and children of general  
131 magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims,  
132 administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative  
133 Hearings, ~~and~~ child support enforcement hearing officers, and  
134 the chair, commissioners, and hearing officers of the Public  
135 Employees Relations Commission; and the names and locations of  
136 schools and day care facilities attended by the children of  
137 general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation  
138 claims, administrative law judges of the Division of  
139 Administrative Hearings, ~~and~~ child support enforcement hearing  
140 officers, and the chair, commissioners, and hearing officers of  
141 the Public Employees Relations Commission are exempt from s.  
142 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

143 h. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,  
144 and photographs of current or former human resource, labor  
145 relations, or employee relations directors, assistant directors,

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

managers, or assistant managers of any local government agency or water management district whose duties include hiring and firing employees, labor contract negotiation, administration, or other personnel-related duties; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

i. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former code enforcement officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

j. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former guardians ad litem, as defined in s. 39.01; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such persons; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such persons are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

k. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, detention superintendents, assistant detention superintendents, juvenile

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

justice detention officers I and II, juvenile justice detention officer supervisors, juvenile justice residential officers, juvenile justice residential officer supervisors I and II, juvenile justice counselors, juvenile justice counselor supervisors, human services counselor administrators, senior human services counselor administrators, rehabilitation therapists, and social services counselors of the Department of Juvenile Justice; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

1. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

m. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former investigators or inspectors

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such current or former investigators and inspectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such current or former investigators and inspectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

n. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of county tax collectors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such tax collectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such tax collectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

o. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel of the Department of Health whose duties include, or result in, the determination or adjudication of eligibility for social security disability benefits, the investigation or prosecution of complaints filed against health care practitioners, or the inspection of health care practitioners or health care facilities licensed by the Department of Health; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

p. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,



33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

and photographs of current or former impaired practitioner consultants who are retained by an agency or current or former employees of an impaired practitioner consultant whose duties result in a determination of a person's skill and safety to practice a licensed profession; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such consultants or their employees; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such consultants or employees are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

q. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former emergency medical technicians or paramedics certified under chapter 401; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

r. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel employed in an agency's office of inspector general or internal audit department whose duties include auditing or investigating waste, fraud, abuse, theft, exploitation, or other activities that could lead to criminal prosecution or administrative discipline; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

s. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former directors, managers, supervisors, nurses, and clinical employees of an addiction treatment facility; the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "addiction treatment facility" means a county government, or agency thereof, that is licensed pursuant to s. 397.401 and provides substance abuse prevention, intervention, or clinical treatment, including any licensed service component described in s. 397.311(27).

t. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former directors, managers, supervisors, and clinical employees of a child advocacy center that meets the standards of s. 39.3035(2) and fulfills the screening requirement of s. 39.3035(3), and the members of a Child Protection Team as described in s. 39.303 whose duties include supporting the investigation of child abuse or sexual abuse, child abandonment, child neglect, and child exploitation or to provide services as part of a multidisciplinary case review team; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

spouses and children of such personnel and members; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel and members are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

u. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former staff and domestic violence advocates, as defined in s. 90.5036(1)(b), of domestic violence centers certified by the Department of Children and Families under chapter 39; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

v. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former inspectors or investigators of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former inspectors or investigators; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former inspectors or investigators are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

w. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

and photographs of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption does not apply to a county attorney, assistant county attorney, deputy county attorney, city attorney, assistant city attorney, or deputy city attorney who qualifies as a candidate for election to public office. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

x. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former commissioners of the Florida Gaming Control Commission; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such current or former commissioners; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such current or former commissioners are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

y. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current clerks of the circuit court, deputy clerks of the circuit court, and clerk of the circuit court personnel; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current clerks of the circuit court, deputy clerks of the circuit court, and clerk of the circuit court personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current clerks of the circuit court, deputy clerks of the circuit court, and clerk of the circuit court personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

z.(I) As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term:

(A) "Congressional member" means a person who is elected to serve as a member of the United States House of Representatives or is elected or appointed to serve as a member of the United States Senate.

(B) "Partial home address" means the dwelling location at which an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing address, street address, parcel identification number, plot identification number, legal property description, neighborhood name and lot number, GPS coordinates, and any other

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

descriptive property information that may reveal the partial home address, except for the city and zip code.

(C) "Public officer" means a person who holds one of the following offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Financial Officer, Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner, state representative, state senator, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, school superintendent, school board member, mayor, city commissioner, or county commissioner.

(II) The following information is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

(A) The partial home addresses of a current congressional member or public officer and his or her spouse or adult child.

(B) The telephone numbers of a current congressional member or public officer and his or her spouse or adult child.

(C) The name, home addresses, telephone numbers, and date of birth of a minor child of a current congressional member or public officer and the name and location of the school or day care facility attended by the minor child.

(III) This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2030, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

3.a. An agency that is the custodian of the information specified in subparagraph 2. and that is not the employer of the officer, employee, justice, judge, or other person specified in subparagraph 2. must maintain the exempt status of that information only if the officer, employee, justice, judge, other person, or employing agency of the designated employee submits a written and notarized request for maintenance of the exemption

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

to the custodial agency. The request must state under oath the statutory basis for the individual's exemption request and confirm the individual's status as a party eligible for exempt status.

b. An agency that is the custodian of information specified in sub-subparagraph 2.z. and that is not the employer of the congressional member, public officer, or other person specified in sub-subparagraph 2.z. must maintain the exempt status of that information only if an individual requests the maintenance of an exemption pursuant to sub-subparagraph 2.z. on the basis of eligibility as a current congressional member or public officer and his or her spouse or child submits, as part of the written and notarized request required by sub-subparagraph a., the date of the congressional member's or public officer's election or appointment to public office, the date on which that office is next subject to election, and, if applicable, the date on which the current congressional member's or public officer's minor child reaches the age of majority. The custodian must maintain an exemption granted pursuant to sub-subparagraph 2.z. until the qualifying conditions for the exemption no longer apply to the person subject to the exemption.

4.a. A county property appraiser, as defined in s. 192.001(3), or a county tax collector, as defined in s. 192.001(4), who receives a written and notarized request for maintenance of the exemption pursuant to subparagraph 3. must comply by removing the name of the individual with exempt status and the instrument number or Official Records book and page number identifying the property with the exempt status from all publicly available records maintained by the property appraiser

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

or tax collector. For written requests received on or before July 1, 2021, a county property appraiser or county tax collector must comply with this sub-subparagraph by October 1, 2021. A county property appraiser or county tax collector may not remove the street address, legal description, or other information identifying real property within the agency's records so long as a name or personal information otherwise exempt from inspection and copying pursuant to this section is not associated with the property or otherwise displayed in the public records of the agency.

b. Any information restricted from public display, inspection, or copying under sub-subparagraph a. must be provided to the individual whose information was removed.

5. An officer, an employee, a justice, a judge, or other person specified in subparagraph 2. may submit a written request for the release of his or her exempt information to the custodial agency. The written request must be notarized and must specify the information to be released and the party authorized to receive the information. Upon receipt of the written request, the custodial agency must release the specified information to the party authorized to receive such information.

6. The exemptions in this paragraph apply to information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

7. Information made exempt under this paragraph may be disclosed pursuant to s. 28.2221 to a title insurer authorized pursuant to s. 624.401 and its affiliates as defined in s. 624.10; a title insurance agent or title insurance agency as defined in s. 626.841(1) or (2), respectively; or an attorney



33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

duly admitted to practice law in this state and in good standing with The Florida Bar.

8. The exempt status of a home address contained in the Official Records is maintained only during the period when a protected party resides at the dwelling location. Upon conveyance of real property after October 1, 2021, and when such real property no longer constitutes a protected party's home address as defined in sub-subparagraph 1.a., the protected party must submit a written request to release the removed information to the county recorder. The written request to release the removed information must be notarized, must confirm that a protected party's request for release is pursuant to a conveyance of his or her dwelling location, and must specify the Official Records book and page, instrument number, or clerk's file number for each document containing the information to be released.

9. Upon the death of a protected party as verified by a certified copy of a death certificate or court order, any party can request the county recorder to release a protected decedent's removed information unless there is a related request on file with the county recorder for continued removal of the decedent's information or unless such removal is otherwise prohibited by statute or by court order. The written request to release the removed information upon the death of a protected party must attach the certified copy of a death certificate or court order and must be notarized, must confirm the request for release is due to the death of a protected party, and must specify the Official Records book and page number, instrument number, or clerk's file number for each document containing the

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

information to be released. A fee may not be charged for the release of any document pursuant to such request.

Section 2. The amendment made by this act to s. 119.071(4)(d)2.g., Florida Statutes, is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If the expansion of the exemption is not saved from repeal, the text of that sub-subparagraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2026, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the amendment to the text which expires pursuant to this section.

Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 447.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

447.205 Public Employees Relations Commission.—

(10) The deliberations of the commission ~~in any proceeding before it~~ are closed and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 286.011. However, any hearing held or oral argument heard by the commission pursuant to this chapter or chapter 120 ~~is or this chapter shall be~~ open to the public. All draft orders and related written communications that are developed in preparation for, or preliminary to, the issuance of any order by the commission or its designees ~~a final written order~~ are confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

Section 4. The amendment made by this act to s. 447.205(10), Florida Statutes, is subject to the Open Government

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If the expansion of the exemption is not saved from repeal, the text of that subsection shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2026, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the amendment to the text which expires pursuant to this section.

Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 447.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

447.308 Revocation of certification of employee organization.—

(1) Any employee or group of employees which no longer desires to be represented by the certified bargaining agent may file with the commission a petition to revoke certification. The petition must ~~shall~~ be accompanied by dated statements signed by at least 30 percent of the employees in the unit, indicating that such employees no longer desire to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by the certified bargaining agent. The time of filing said petition is ~~shall be~~ governed by ~~the provisions of~~ s. 447.307(3)(d) relating to petitions for certification. The showing of interest signed by the employees is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution, except that any employee, employer, or employee organization having sufficient reason to believe any of the employee signatures were obtained by collusion, coercion, intimidation, or misrepresentation or are

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

otherwise invalid shall be given a reasonable opportunity to verify and challenge the signatures appearing on the petition. The commission or one of its designated agents shall investigate the petition to determine its sufficiency. If the commission finds the petition to be insufficient, it may dismiss the petition. If the commission finds that the petition is sufficient, it shall immediately:

(a) Identify the bargaining unit and determine which public employees shall be qualified and entitled to vote in the election held by the commission.

(b) Identify the public employer or employers.

(c) Order an election by secret ballot, the cost of said election to be borne equally by the parties, except as the commission may provide by rule. The commission's order assessing costs of an election may be enforced pursuant to the provisions of this part.

Section 6. The amendment made by this act to s. 447.308(1), Florida Statutes, is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If the expansion of the exemption is not saved from repeal, the text of that subsection shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2026, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the amendment to the text which expires pursuant to this section.

Section 7. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

581 numbers of the chair, commissioners, and hearing officers of the  
582 Public Employees Relations Commission; the names, home  
583 addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of  
584 employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and  
585 the names and locations of schools and day care facilities  
586 attended by the children of such personnel be made exempt from  
587 s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the  
588 State Constitution. Such personnel and their families are at a  
589 heightened risk of physical and emotional harm from disgruntled  
590 individuals who have contentious reactions to actions taken by  
591 the commission. In addition, such personnel may be subject to  
592 threats or acts of revenge because of the duties they perform.  
593 The spouses and children of such personnel are also endangered  
594 by individuals who seek to intimidate or harm such personnel.  
595 The Legislature finds that the harm that may result from the  
596 release of such personal identifying and location information  
597 outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the  
598 disclosure of the information.

599 (2) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity  
600 that draft orders and related written communications that are  
601 developed in preparation for, or preliminary to, the issuance of  
602 any order by the Public Employees Relations Commission or its  
603 designees be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1),  
604 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State  
605 Constitution. The Public Employees Relations Commission, as a  
606 quasi-judicial agency, speaks through its written orders based  
607 on the law and facts. The commission and its hearing officers  
608 rely on the confidentiality of draft orders and written  
609 communications related to these drafts before they become final

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

and are released to the public. The existing provision in s. 447.205(10), Florida Statutes, addresses this confidentiality and recognizes its importance to the proper functioning of the commission. However, it was adopted in 1977, with the only substantive amendment being made in 1991. To avoid the existing provision from being inadvertently read so as to allow public access to draft orders or commission deliberations, including preliminary work prepared by commission hearing officers, the Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the language of the provision providing for confidentiality and exemption of commission deliberations and draft orders be clarified to reflect updates in technology, current practices of the commission related to the use of hearing officers, and modern methods of communication. The confidentiality and exemption of commission deliberations and draft orders are essential to the operation of the commission. Likewise, the confidentiality and exemption of written communications related to draft orders are essential to the operation of the commission given updates in technology, commission practice of using hearing officers as designees to prepare draft orders and assist in preparing final orders, and modern methods of communication. The Legislature further finds that the harm that may result from the release of written communications related to draft orders, in light of current technology, practices, and methods of communication, outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of such written communications.

(3) The Legislature further finds that it is a public necessity that the showing of interest statements signed by public employees indicating their desire to no longer be

33-01484-26

20261298\_\_

639 represented by their bargaining agent be made confidential and  
640 exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),  
641 Article I of the State Constitution. The showing of interest  
642 statements signed by public employees indicating their desire to  
643 be represented by a bargaining agent is already confidential and  
644 exempt pursuant to s. 447.307, Florida Statutes, in order to  
645 avoid the practical effect of chilling the employees' exercise  
646 of the right to form and join a union. Similarly, the showing of  
647 interest statements seeking to decertify a union must be kept  
648 confidential in order to avoid the practical effect of chilling  
649 the employees' exercise of the right to no longer be represented  
650 by a union. The Legislature finds that the harm that may result  
651 from the release of this showing of interest information  
652 outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the  
653 disclosure of the information.

654       Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.