HB 291 2020

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; amending s. 790.065, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for records containing certain information pertaining to a buyer or transferee who is not found to be prohibited from receipt or transfer of ammunition; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 790.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

790.065 Sale and delivery of firearms.—

(4) (a) Any records containing any of the information set forth in subsection (1) pertaining to a buyer or transferee who is not found to be prohibited from receipt or transfer of a firearm or ammunition by reason of Florida and federal law which records are created by the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct the criminal history record check shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and may not be disclosed by the Department of Law Enforcement or any officer or employee thereof to any person or to another agency. The

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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Department of Law Enforcement shall destroy any such records forthwith after it communicates the approval and nonapproval numbers to the licensee and, in any event, such records shall be destroyed within 48 hours after the day of the response to the licensee's request.

Statutes, made by this act are subject to the Open Government

Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida

Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2025, and the text of this paragraph shall revert to that in existence on July 1, 2020, except that any amendments to such text enacted other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 portions of text which expire pursuant to this section, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 3. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the information pertaining to an individual who is a buyer or transferee who is not found to be prohibited from receipt or transfer of ammunition under s. 790.065, Florida Statutes, be made confidential and exempt from public records requirements under s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The knowledge that someone has purchased ammunition can easily lead to the conclusion that the applicant or licensee has in fact armed himself or herself.

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 The Legislature has found in prior legislative sessions and has expressed in s. 790.335(1)(a)3., Florida Statutes, that a list, record, or registry of legally owned firearms or law-abiding firearm owners is "an instrument that can be used as a means to profile innocent citizens and to harass and abuse American citizens based solely on their choice to own firearms and exercise their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed under the United States Constitution." Release of personal identifying information of an individual who has purchased ammunition could be used to harass an innocent person based solely on that person's exercised right to own a firearm. Therefore, the Legislature finds that such information must be held confidential and exempt from public records requirements.

Section 4. This act shall take effect on the same date

Section 4. This act shall take effect on the same date that HB 289 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.