HB 1249 2019

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 3 409.175, F.S.; expanding exemptions from public records requirements to include the names of foster 4 5 parent applicants and foster parents, and their 6 spouses, minor children, and other adult household 7 members, held by the Department of Children and 8 Families; providing for retroactive application of the 9 expanded exemptions; providing for future legislative 10 review and repeal of the expanded exemptions; providing for reversion of specified language if the 11 12 exemptions are not saved from repeal; providing a 13 statement of public necessity; providing an effective 14 date. 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (16) of section 409.175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public records exemption.-

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(16)(a)1. The following information held by the Department of Children and Families regarding a foster parent applicant and such applicant's spouse, minor child, and other adult household

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

a. Names;

- $\underline{\text{b.a.}}$ The home, business, work, child care, or school addresses and telephone numbers;
 - c.b. Birth dates;
 - d.c. Medical records;
 - e.d. The floor plan of the home; and
 - f.e. Photographs of such persons.
- 2. If a foster parent applicant does not receive a foster parent license, the information made exempt pursuant to this paragraph shall become public 5 years after the date of application, except that medical records shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- 3. The This exemption applies to information made exempt by this paragraph before, on, or after July 1, 2019 the effective date of the exemption. The expansion of the public records exemption under this paragraph to include the names of foster parent applicants and their spouses, minor children, and other adult household members is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If the expansion of the exemption is not saved from repeal, this paragraph shall

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revert to that in existence on June 30, 2019, except that any amendments to such text 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 paragraph.

(b)1. The following information held by the Department of Children and Families regarding a licensed foster parent and the foster parent's spouse, minor child, and other adult household member is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

a. Names;

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- $\underline{\text{b.a.}}$ The home, business, work, child care, or school addresses and telephone numbers;
 - c.b. Birth dates;
 - d.c. Medical records;
 - e.d. The floor plan of the home; and
 - f.e. Photographs of such persons.
- 2. If a foster parent's license is no longer active, the information made exempt pursuant to this paragraph shall become public 5 years after the expiration date of such foster parent's foster care license except that:
- a. Medical records shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- b. Exempt information regarding a licensed foster parent who has become an adoptive parent and exempt information

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regarding such foster parent's spouse, minor child, or other adult household member shall remain exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

3. The This exemption applies to information made exempt by this paragraph before, on, or after July 1, 2019 the effective date of the exemption. The expansion of the public records exemption under this paragraph to include the names of foster parents and their spouses, minor children, and other adult household members is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If the expansion of the exemption is not saved from repeal, this paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2019, except that any amendments to such text 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 paragraph.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the names of foster parent applicants and foster parents, and their spouses, minor children, and other adult household members, held by the Department of Children and Families pursuant to s. 409.175, Florida Statutes, be made confidential and exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State

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Constitution. Safeguarding the names of foster parent applicants and foster parents, and their spouses, minor children, and other adult household members, from disclosure will ensure that the names of foster children will remain confidential. If a foster parent applicant or foster parent, or his or her spouse, minor child, or other adult household member, has an unusual name, any person who acquires a list of the names of foster parent applicants or foster parents, or their spouses, minor children, and other adult household members, could potentially uncover personally identifying information about the foster children living in the home which could lead to unwanted contact by the press or the children's relatives who are seeking to obtain private and sensitive information regarding the children, including, but not limited to, their location. Furthermore, the disclosure of the names of the foster parent applicants and foster parents, and their spouses, minor children, and other adult household members, would compromise the privacy of the family and stifle the efforts by the Department of Children and Families to recruit and retain foster parent applicants and foster parents.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

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