HB 1397 2019

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 3 390.01116; expanding an existing public records exemption to include information that could identify a 4 5 pregnant minor which is contained in a record held by 6 the court relating to the pregnant minor's petition to 7 waive consent requirements to obtain an abortion; 8 providing for future legislative review and repeal of 9 the expanded exemption under the Open Government 10 Sunset Review Act; providing for reversion of 11 specified language if the exemption is not saved from 12 repeal; providing a statement of public necessity; 13 providing a contingent effective date.

1415

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

1617

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Section 1. Section 390.01116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

390.01116 Public records exemptions; minors seeking waiver of notice <u>and consent</u> requirements.—Any information that can be used to identify a minor petitioning a circuit court for a judicial waiver, as provided in s. 390.01114, of the <u>notice</u> requirements under the Parental Notice of <u>and Consent for</u> Abortion Act is:

(1) Confidential and exempt from s. 24(a), Art. I of the

Page 1 of 3

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

HB 1397 2019

State Constitution if held by a circuit court or an appellate court.

(2) Confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if held by the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel or the Justice Administrative Commission.

The expansion of the public records exemption under this section to include information that could identify a pregnant minor under 18 years of age which is contained in a record held by the court relating to the pregnant minor's petition to waive consent requirements to obtain an abortion is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.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 section 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 section.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to keep confidential and exempt from public disclosure information contained in a court record which could be used to identify a pregnant minor who is petitioning the court for a

Page 2 of 3

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

HB 1397 2019

waiver from the statutory requirement that a parent or legal guardian give consent before the pregnant minor may obtain an abortion. The information contained in these records is of a sensitive, personal nature regarding a minor petitioner, release of which could harm the reputation of the pregnant minor, as well as jeopardize her safety. Disclosure of this information could jeopardize the safety of the pregnant minor in instances when child abuse or child sexual abuse against her is present by exposing her to further acts of abuse from an abuser who, if the information was not held confidential, could learn of her pregnancy, her plans to obtain an abortion, and her petition to the court.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that HB 1335 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.