HB 23 2024

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; providing an exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information in applications submitted to the Department of State by persons

seeking certification as victims of Florida reform school abuse; 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. Applications for certification as a victim of Florida reform school abuse; public records exemption.—Any personal identifying information in an application submitted to the Department of State by, or on behalf of, a person seeking certification as a victim of Florida reform school abuse, as defined in the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Abuse Victim Certification Act, is exempt from s.

119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on December 31, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the

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

HB 23 2024

Legislature.

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Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that personal identifying information in applications for certification as a victim of Florida reform school abuse which are submitted to the Department of State be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature finds that the release of personal identifying information contained in a certification application could subject victims of Florida reform school abuse to further trauma. The Legislature further finds that such victims would be more likely to come forward and seek redress if personal identifying information in the applications were protected from public disclosure. The Legislature finds that the harm that may result from the release of such information outweighs the 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 21 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.