

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to public records; amending s.  
 3           937.022, F.S.; providing an exemption from public  
 4           records requirements for names, addresses, telephone  
 5           numbers, and other identifying information of persons  
 6           who are or have been included in the Camo Alert  
 7           Voluntary Registry; providing for future legislative  
 8           review and repeal of the exemption; providing a  
 9           statement of public necessity; providing a contingent  
 10          effective date.

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

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 14           Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
 15           937.022, Florida Statutes, as created by HB 1051, is amended to  
 16           read:

17           937.022 Missing Endangered Persons Information  
 18           Clearinghouse.—

19           (3) The clearinghouse shall:

20           (d)1. Establish and maintain the Camo Alert Voluntary  
 21           Registry, a voluntary registration system to manage the  
 22           voluntary registration of at-risk veterans by a veteran or his  
 23           or her legal guardian. Only those veterans who have voluntarily  
 24           requested to participate in the Camo Alert system shall be  
 25           included in the Camo Alert Voluntary Registry. The system shall

26 | also provide for the removal and expungement of an at-risk  
27 | veteran's registration and information from the registry upon  
28 | written request from the veteran or his or her legal guardian  
29 | within 30 days after the clearinghouse receives the written  
30 | request.

31 |       2. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and other  
32 | identifying information of persons who are or have been included  
33 | in the Camo Alert Voluntary Registry are confidential and exempt  
34 | from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
35 | Constitution. This exemption is not waived by the release of  
36 | information about a listed persons when a Camo Alert is issued.  
37 | This subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset  
38 | Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed  
39 | on October 2, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the  
40 | Legislature.

41 |       Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
42 | necessity that the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and  
43 | other identifying information of persons who are or have been  
44 | included in the Camo Alert Voluntary Registry be made exempt  
45 | from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of  
46 | the State Constitution. Such information is a private matter.  
47 | Public knowledge of such information could lead to  
48 | discrimination against the at-risk veteran, could discourage an  
49 | at-risk veteran from seeking the benefits of being included in  
50 | the registry, and could compromise the therapeutic process. An

51 at-risk veteran may not want his or her status as an at-risk  
52 person available to the public, and a lack of confidentiality  
53 could discourage such vulnerable person from registering. Also,  
54 an at-risk veteran may be involved in treatment, and therapeutic  
55 and treatment programs cannot operate efficiently and  
56 effectively if at-risk veterans are reluctant to participate  
57 because their identities as at-risk persons would be subject to  
58 inspection and review. The Legislature finds that the harm that  
59 may result from the release of the names, addresses, telephone  
60 numbers, and other identifying information of such persons  
61 outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the  
62 disclosure of the information.

63 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date  
64 that HB 1051 or similar legislation takes effect, if such  
65 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an  
66 extension thereof and becomes a law.