

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1678

SPONSOR: Governmental Oversight & Productivity Committee

SUBJECT: Public Records

DATE: February 18, 2004 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Rhea</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>
4.	<u>Kynoch</u>	<u>Coburn</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
5.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>                    </u>
6.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

## I. Summary:

The Senate President assigned staff a project to review and reorganize ch. 119, F.S., the Public Records Act, during the 2003-04 interim.<sup>1</sup> The act contains policy statements regarding public records, maintenance and custody requirements, inspection, copying and fee standards, an exemption review process, and exemptions. The report notes that since the chapter was first enacted in 1967, it has been amended numerous times but it has not undergone a comprehensive review and revision. As a result, the act has become disjointed and unorganized. For example, while the act has a definitions section, terms are defined and dispersed throughout the act, making them difficult to locate. More importantly, various requirements for access, maintenance and preservation of public records, and fees for copies are not organized in a logical manner and are difficult to find and apply. A reorganized act will provide for greater clarity and simplicity, as well as assist in future topical reviews of the issues affecting public records. The report concluded that a comprehensive revision of the act is warranted in order to facilitate its use by the governmental employees who must implement it and the public that relies on it for access.

The committee substitute rearranges the act into topical sections. Legislative policy statements are co-located; definitions are placed in one section and alphabetized; fee standards and requirements are placed in one section of the act; penalty provisions are also consolidated. Additionally, the committee substitute corrects numerous cross-references necessitated by the renumbering of sections in the Act, and adds other sections of law that need reference changes; and transfers some exemptions that relate only to specific agencies to other sections of law. The committee substitute also creates a definition for the term "redact." The committee substitute also clarifies and makes uniform records retention provisions of law.

<sup>1</sup> See, Senate Interim Project Report 2004-139 by the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

This bill amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 23.22, 101.5607, 112.533, 119.01, 119.011, 119.10, 119.12, 119.105, 119.021, 119.07, 119.084, 120.55, 257.34, 257.35, 257.36, 282.21, 287.0943, 320.05, 322.20, 328.15, 338.223, 372.5717, 401.27, 409.2577, 440.132, 455.219, 456.025, 627.311, 627.351, 633.527, 668.50, 794.024, 560.121, 560.123, 560.129, 624.311, 624.312, 633.527, 655.50, 921.0022, 945.25, 943.031, 985.31, and 1021.31.

The bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 39.2021 and 415.1071.

This bill repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 119.0115; 119.012; 119.02; 119.031; 119.041; 119.05; 119.06; 119.08; 119.085; 119.09, 212.095(6)(d), 238.03(9), 430.015, 723.0065, and 768.301.

## II. Present Situation:

The Senate President assigned staff a project to review and reorganize the act during the 2003-04 interim.<sup>2</sup> The report noted that ch. 119, F.S., has been modified and expanded almost annually since it was enacted in 1967, but it has not been comprehensively revised since that time. As a result, the act has become disjointed and unorganized. For example, while the act has a definition section, definitions of terms are dispersed throughout the act, making them difficult to locate. More importantly, various requirements for access, maintenance and preservation of public records, and fees for copies are not organized in a logical manner and are difficult to find and apply. A reorganized act will provide for greater clarity and simplicity, as well as assist in future topical reviews of the issues affecting public records. The report concluded that a comprehensive revision of the act is warranted in order to facilitate its use by the governmental employees who must implement it and the public that relies on it for access. Further, the report concluded that such a revision would help the Legislature to prepare for future consideration of issues that impact public records.

This was not the first time that a revision of the act was contemplated. During the 2001-2002 legislative interim, the Senate President assigned the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity an interim project to review ch. 119, F.S., to make the multiple exemptions to public records requirements easier to locate. The project, which is *Interim Project Report 2002-135*, was conceived as a multi-year, multi-stage project with the first phase including a comprehensive review and reorganization of the Public Records Act. Later stages were to include a review of various exemptions, and to include proposals for the creation of a section in ch. 119, F.S., for general exemptions that apply across agencies, as well as agency-specific sections for exemptions that apply solely to a particular agency. Senate Bill 274, which was introduced during the 2002 regular session, reflected that recommendation. That bill passed the full Senate by a vote of 34-0, but it died on the House calendar.

Further, in 2002, the Florida Legislature created a 22-member Study Committee on Public Records.<sup>3</sup> The study committee was legislatively directed to address a broad scope of issues regarding court records, official records, privacy, and public access. On February 15, 2003, the study committee submitted recommendations to the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme

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<sup>2</sup> See, Senate Interim Project Report 2004-139 by the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

<sup>3</sup> See, ch. 2002-302, L.O.F. The term of the Study Committee on Public Records expired June 30, 2003.

Court, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The two recommendations that it made to the Legislature were to reorganize ch. 119, F.S., the Public Records Act, and to create a statutory definition of “redaction”.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, during the 2003 regular session, by a vote of 108-0, the House passed House Bill 1807, which included the content of Senate Bill 274, but the bill died in committee. The companion to House Bill 1807, Senate Bill 2684, passed the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, but died in the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

Florida has a long history of granting public access to governmental records. This tradition began in 1909 with the enactment of a law that guaranteed access to the records of public agencies.<sup>5</sup> Over the following nine decades, a significant body of statutory and judicial law developed that greatly enhanced the original law. The state’s Public Records Act, which is contained within ch. 119, F.S., was first enacted in 1967.<sup>6</sup> The act has been amended numerous times since its enactment.

In November 1992, the public affirmed the tradition of government-in-the-sunshine by enacting a constitutional amendment which guaranteed and expanded the practice. Article I, s. 24(a) of the State Constitution states:

Every person has the right to inspect or copy any public record made or received in connection with the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, or persons acting on their behalf, except with respect to records exempted pursuant to this section or specifically made confidential by this Constitution. This section specifically includes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and each agency or department created thereunder; counties, municipalities, and districts; and each constitutional officer, board, and commission, or entity created pursuant to law or this Constitution.<sup>7</sup>

The effect of adopting this amendment was to raise the statutory right of access contained in the Public Records Law to a constitutional level and of extending those provisions beyond the executive branch to the judicial and legislative branches of state government. The amendment “grandfathered” exemptions that were in effect on July 1, 1993, until they are repealed.<sup>8</sup>

The State Constitution, the Public Records Law and case law specify the conditions under which public access must be provided to governmental records. Under these provisions, public records are open for inspection and copying unless they are made exempt by the Legislature according to the process and standards required in the State Constitution.

Article I, s. 24 (c) of the State Constitution authorizes the Legislature to provide exemptions from the public access provisions of the law and constitution by general law. Any law that

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<sup>4</sup> See, *Study Committee on Public Records: Examination of the Effects of Advanced Technologies on Privacy and Public Access to Court Records and Official Records*, February 15, 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Section 1, ch. 5942, 1909; RGS 424; CGL 490.

<sup>6</sup> Chapter 67-125 (1967 L.O.F.).

<sup>7</sup> Article I, s. 24 of the State Constitution.

<sup>8</sup> Article I, s. 24(d) of the State Constitution.

creates an exemption must state with specificity the public necessity that justifies the exemption. An exemption may be no broader than necessary to comport with the stated public necessity. Further, a law that creates a public record exemption can relate only to exemptions and their enforcement. In other words, a law that creates a public records exemption may not include other substantive issues.

The Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995<sup>9</sup> provides for the systematic repeal of exemptions to the Public Records Law and Public Meetings Law five years after the creation of, or substantial modification to, an exemption. The repeal cycle began in 2001. The 1995 act also specifies the conditions under which a public records or public meetings exemption may be created.

The report notes that ch. 119, F.S., currently contains a definition section, but definitions of terms that are used in the act are also dispersed throughout it.<sup>10</sup> As a result, it is sometimes difficult to locate definitions. Further, the terms that are in the definition section are not alphabetized. If definitions of all terms that are used in the Public Records Act were placed in the definition section and alphabetized, the average user could find definitions more easily. Further, some definitions in ch. 119, F.S., are specifically tied to definitions that are contained in other chapters. Given that ch. 119, F.S., provides general requirements for public records, it would be appropriate for that chapter to contain all general standards and definitions for public records and that cross-references be made to definitions in ch. 119, F.S., and not the reverse.

The Public Records Act contains a specific section for general state policy on public records,<sup>11</sup> but additional policy statements are contained in other sections of the chapter. The report notes, for example, s. 119.084, F.S., which relates specifically to requirements for the copyright of public records, also contains policy statements regarding common format of electronic records,<sup>12</sup> the type of copy that must be provided to the public on request,<sup>13</sup> and a prohibition against entering into contracts which impair public access.<sup>14</sup> These policy statements are general in nature and should be placed in the general policy section.

In addition to public policy statements, the report notes that fee requirements are also dispersed. Fees for copies of public records are contained in ss. 119.07(1)(a) and (b), 119.083(5), and 119.085, F.S. The report notes that these requirements could be located in one section for ease of use and clarity. Once fee requirements are placed in one section, comparative analysis of the current fee structures will be facilitated. Additionally, the report notes that co-locating fee requirements may help to establish fee consistency among agencies and encourage compliance.

Records maintenance, retention schedules, and records destruction requirements are also contained in different sections of the act. Currently, the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State is assigned a number of duties in these areas. The provisions that assign the division responsibilities sometimes appear to overlap with other provisions which

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<sup>9</sup> Sections 119.15 and 286.0111, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Page 3 of Interim Project Report 2002-135; section 119.011, F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section 119.01, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 119.083(4), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 119.083(5), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 119.093(6), F.S.

place duties on agencies. Clarification of duties and responsibilities, as well as reorganization of specific requirements for maintenance and preservation of public records, would improve the act.

Finally, the report notes that there does not appear to be a consistent method for the location of exemptions to public records requirements. The Public Records Act contains a subsection that contains a litany of exemptions. These exemptions are not organized in any particular fashion, such as by agency or type. Other sections of the act also contain exemptions. Section 119.0115, F.S., for example, exempts certain videotapes or signals from the chapter. Further, there are many exemptions that are not located in the Public Records Act, but are instead found within the statutory chapters to which they relate.

From an organizational perspective, the report notes that it may be appropriate to create a specific section within the Public Records Act for general exemptions that apply to all agencies. For example, currently, a number of agencies have exemptions for credit card numbers that they receive. There is also a general exemption for credit card numbers. A general exemption should suffice for all agencies and could be placed within a general exemption section in the Public Records Act. Eventually, specific but redundant exemptions could be repealed. Another example of a potential general exemption could be social security numbers that are in the possession of state agencies. There are likely numerous exemptions that could be enacted as general exemptions, though additional study will be necessary to identify them.

In addition to chapter 119, F.S., numerous other statutes require state and local agencies to retain and store records that have historical or other value. The statutes specify records retention periods of two years to 30 years and may authorize destruction following such periods. Other public records are to be permanently retained.

The Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, Bureau of Archives and Records Management is charged, by law, with establishing and administering a records management program. The bureau provides minimum record retention schedules for state and local government; approves or disapproves requests for destruction of records; establishes standards for creation, use, and storage of records; provides training and technical assistance services regarding the management and preservation of records; and operates the records storage center in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Florida State Archives is the central repository for the archives of state government and is mandated by law to collect, preserve, and make available for research the historically significant records of the state, as well as private manuscripts, local government records, photographs, and other materials.

During the 2001 interim, the House Committee on Tourism reviewed the state's records management system. The impetus of the committee's report was a 1999 review by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) which concluded that there was confusion regarding records retention and destruction. Additionally, there was continued concern that these issues had not been resolved. The OPPAGA report recommended that the Legislature review possible statutory changes to alleviate the confusion.

The House Committee on Tourism focused on the provisions of law that needed to be revised in order to address outdated, ambiguous, or nonessential statutory requirements regarding the retention and destruction of agency records. Based upon the committee's survey of state agencies, agency follow-up questions, meetings with the Bureau of Archives and Records Management, review of state law, and meetings with various House committee staff regarding changes proposed, the Records Management for State Agencies Report recommended statutory changes for reduction of timeframes for or elimination of retention of specific agency records. The report recommended that sections of law containing the phrase "permanent record" or "permanent file" be reviewed for statutory clarification. Some of the records did not require indefinite retention, but rather retention pursuant to state records retention policy.

On October 9, 2001, the House Committee on Tourism directed committee staff to prepare legislation addressing the retention and destruction of agency records. At its November 27, 2001, meeting, the committee approved the Records Management for State Agencies Report and discussed, amended, and unanimously passed a committee bill that addressed issues raised in the report.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill reorganizes ch. 119, F.S., the Public Records Act in a comprehensive fashion. Also, at the recommendation of the Study Committee on Public Records, the bill includes a definition of the term "redact." No other changes were made to definitions or requirements of the Act, except to reflect wording used in Article I, s. 24 of the State Constitution.

The bill also amends various sections of law regarding the reduction of timeframes for or elimination of retention of specific records if: the current retention requirements are no longer relevant to the respective agency's statutory requirements; the records are no longer being maintained by the originating agency; the retention timeframe is inordinate; the records are required to be maintained in outdated formats; or the records are retained in a format or timeframe contrary to state records retention laws. This bill also amends certain sections of law containing the phrase "permanent record" or "permanent file" in order to specify that such records do not require indefinite retention.

This bill amends s. 257.36, F.S., to require that when an agency's duty or responsibility is transferred to another agency or entity, the receiving agency or entity becomes the official records custodian. When an agency or entity is dissolved, the Executive Office of the Governor becomes the official records custodian. Designation of the records custodian must be in accordance with s. 119.021, F.S. The records custodian is responsible for payment of the storage service charge regarding records.

Additionally, the bill corrects numerous cross-references necessitated by the renumbering of sections in the Act, and adds other sections of law that need reference changes; deletes superfluous language referencing the Federal Code of Regulation because these provisions are no longer necessary; and makes numerous editorial changes.

**Section 1.** Creates s. 39.2021, F.S., by relocating s. 119.07(7), F.S., which allows a person or organization to petition the court for access to records of the Department of Children and Family

Services (DCFS). This provision is agency-specific and, therefore, should not be included in the act.

**Section 2.** Amends s. 119.01, F.S., compiling all of the existing policy statements contained in the Act into one general state policy section. The following existing subsections have been transferred into 119.01, F.S.:

- ▶ **Section 119.084(4), F.S.**, currently requires an agency to consider when designing or acquiring an electronic recordkeeping system that it is capable of providing data in a common format. This requirement is maintained, though it is renumbered as s. 119.01(3)(b) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.084(6), F.S.**, currently prohibits an agency from entering into a contract for the creation or maintenance of a public records database if that contract would impair the ability of the public to inspect or copy public records. This requirement is maintained, though it is renumbered as s. 119.01(3)(c) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.084(3), F.S.**, currently prohibits agency use of proprietary software from diminishing the right of the public to inspect and copy a public record, subject to restrictions of copyright and trade secrets laws and public records exemptions. This requirement is maintained, though it is renumbered as s. 119.01(3)(d) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.084(5), F.S.**, currently requires an agency to provide a copy of any public record stored in an electronic system, if not exempt. If the agency maintains the record in a particular medium requested by a person, it must provide it in that medium. An additional fee is authorized if the record is not kept in the medium requested and the agency elects to provide it in the requested medium. This requirement is maintained, though it is renumbered as s. 119.01(3)(f) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.012, F.S.**, currently provides that if public funds are expended in payment of dues or membership contributions, all financial, business, and membership records of that organization that pertain to the agency are public records. This requirement is maintained, though it is renumbered as s. 119.01(4) of the bill.
- ▶ **Subsection (4) of s. 119.01, F.S.**, relates to the disposal of public records that do not have sufficient value to retain. This provision is removed from s. 119.01, F.S., and moved to s. 119.021(3) of the bill.

**Section 3.** There are a number of definitions that are distributed throughout the act. The bill transfers those definitions into s. 119.011, F.S., the existing definition section without modification and alphabetizes the list of definitions. The following definitions are transferred into the section:

- ▶ **Section 119.07(1)(a), F.S.**, currently defines the term “actual cost of duplication.” This term becomes s. 119.011(1) of the bill.

- ▶ **Section 119.021, F.S.**, currently defines the term “custodian of public records.” This term becomes s. 119.01(5) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.07(3)(o)1, F.S.**, currently defines the term “data processing software.” This term becomes s. 119.01(6) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.07(1)(a), F.S.**, currently defines the term “duplicated copies.” This term becomes s. 119.01(7) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.15(3)(e), F.S.**, defines the term “exemption.” This term becomes s. 119.01(8) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.07(1)(b), F.S.**, defines the term “information technology resources.” This term becomes 119.01(9) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.084(1)(c), F.S.**, defines the term “proprietary software.” This term becomes s. 119.01(10) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.07(3)(o)2., F.S.**, defines the term “sensitive.” This term becomes s. 119.01(13) of the bill.

Other definitions in the section are redesignated as a result of alphabetizing the definitions.

The bill also creates in subsection (12) a definition of the term “redact.” That term is defined to mean

“. . . to conceal from a copy of an original public record, or to conceal from an electronic image that is available for public viewing, that portion of the record containing exempt or confidential information.”

The purpose of this definition is to further clarify existing law that an agency is not to alter or destroy a public record when complying with requirements to protect information that the Legislature has made exempt or confidential.

**Section 4.** This section repeals ss. 119.0115, 119.012, and 119.02, F.S., though the requirements of these sections remain in effect without alteration because the bill simultaneously transfers them to other sections of the act. Specifically:

- ▶ **Section 119.0115, F.S.**, which exempts certain videotapes and signals, is transferred to s. 119.07(6) (hh), F.S., which contains exemptions.
- ▶ **Section 119.012, F.S.**, which establishes a policy that private organization records relating to an agency that uses public funds to pay dues or membership contributions are public records, is transferred to s. 119.01, F.S., which establishes general policy requirements.

- ▶ **Section 119.02, F.S.**, which establishes a penalty for violation of the chapter, is moved to s. 119.10, F.S., which also contains penalties for violation.

**Section 5.** Substantially rewords s. 119.021, F.S., relating to designation of a custodian of public records. Includes custodial requirements relating to the maintenance, preservation, and retention of public records.

**Section 6.** This section repeals ss. 119.031, 119.041, 119.05, and 119.06, F.S., though the requirements of these sections remain in effect because the bill simultaneously transfers them to other sections of the act. Specifically:

- ▶ **Section 119.031, F.S.**, currently establishes safety requirements for the maintenance of vital, permanent, or archival records. This requirement is transferred to s. 119.021(1)(b) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.041, F.S.**, currently establishes regulations for the destruction of public records. This requirement is transferred to s. 119.021(2)(c) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.05, F.S.**, currently establishes regulations for the disposal of public records at the end of an official's term. This requirement is transferred to s. 119.021(4)(a) of the bill.
- ▶ **Section 119.06, F.S.**, currently authorizes a person who is entitled to custody of public records to demand them from any person having illegal possession of them. This provision is transferred to s. 119.021(4)(b) of the bill.

**Section 7. Inspection; copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions.**

Amends s. 119.07, F.S., relocating current requirements from other sections of the Act. Provisions related to public record exemptions that are currently located in various sections of ch. 119, F.S., are transferred to subsection (1) of this section. For example, redaction of information by a custodian; statement of the basis for the redaction of information; when a statement must be made in writing; and the legal process in a civil action.

Subsection (2) includes standards related to remote electronic means.

Subsection (3) includes standards related to access and copying of public records through photographic means.

Subsection (4) includes fee standard provisions.

**Section 8.** This section repeals s. 119.08, F.S., which establishes requirements for photographing public records. The requirements of s. 119.08, F.S., are retained because the provision is simultaneously recreated in s. 119.07(3) of the bill.

**Section 9.** Amends s. 119.084, F.S., relating to copyright of data processing software created by governmental agencies; sale price; and licensing fees. Except for the term "agency," which has a narrower definition for the purposes of this section, the definitions that are contained in this section have been transferred to the general definition section of the Act. Further, the general statements of public policy have been transferred to the general public policy section of the bill.

**Section 10.** Repeals ss. 119.085 and 119.09, F.S., because the provisions are simultaneously transferred to s. 119.01(3)(f) and s. 119.021(3)(d), respectively, of the bill.

**Section 11.** Amends s. 119.10, F.S., which establishes penalties for violation of the chapter, to clarify, but not change, the standard.

**Section 12. Protection of victims of crimes or accidents.** The bill amends s. 119.105, F.S., to remove the reference to “general or special law” because Article I, s. 24 of the State Constitution, states that an exemption cannot be enacted in special law.

**Section 13.** Amends s. 119.12, F.S., to remove the word “examine” to conform to language in Art. I, s. 24 of the State Constitution, which uses the phrase “inspect or copy.”

**Section 14.** Amends s. 120.55(1)(a), F.S., removing language relating to publishing in a permanent compilation entitled “Florida Administrative Weekly.” Adds language relating to a continuous revision system, compiling, and publishing the “Florida Administrative Code.”

**Section 15.** Amends s. 257.36(2)(b), F.S., providing that when an agency’s duty or responsibility is transferred to another agency or entity, the receiving agency or entity becomes the official records custodian. When an agency or entity is dissolved, the Cabinet becomes the official records custodian.

**Section 16.** Amends s. 328.15(5), F.S., removing the words “a permanent” and inserting the words “an official” regarding recorded liens records.

**Section 17.** Amends s. 372.5717(4), F.S., removing the word “permanent” regarding hunter safety certification cards for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**Section 18.** Creates s. 415.1071, F.S., relocating a provision allowing a person or organization to petition the court for access to records of DCFS.

**Section 19.** Amends s. 560.121(2), F.S., reducing the retention of examination reports, investigatory records, and applications from 10 years to three years. Provides for application records and related information compiled by the Department of Banking and Finance (DBF) or photographic copies to be retained by DBF for a period of at least two years.

**Section 20.** Amends s. 560.123(6), F.S., reducing the retention of DBF reports of transactions involving currency or monetary instruments from five calendar years to three calendar years.

**Section 21.** Amends s. 560.129(5), F.S., reducing the retention of examination reports, investigatory records, and applications from 10 years to three years. Provides that application records and related information compiled by DBF or photographic copies be retained for a period of at least two years.

**Section 22.** Amends s. 624.311(3), F.S., allowing the Department of Insurance to provide for electronic recordkeeping. Removes language requiring that each page be reproduced in exact conformity with the original.

**Section 23.** Amends s. 624.312(1), F.S., providing that other reproductions from an electronic recordkeeping system, before October 1, 1982, must be admissible in evidence as originals. After October 1, 1982, certified reproductions from an electronic recordkeeping system will be admissible in evidence as originals.

**Section 24.** Amends s. 633.527(2), F.S., reducing the retention for all examination test questions, answer sheets, and grades administered under the State Fire Marshal from five years to two years.

**Section 25.** Amends s. 655.50(8), F.S., relating to DBF retaining copies of certain reports. Removes the 10 year retention requirement and provides a five year retention requirement as contained in 31 C.F.R., parts 103.33 and 103.34, which is the minimum federal retention schedule contained in the federal code, with the exception of trust companies, which are state regulated.

**Section 26.** Amends s. 945.25, F.S., replacing the word “permanent” with the word “official” and replaces the words “may be practicably available” with the word “practical”. Removes s. 945.25(2), F.S., regarding permanent records of persons placed on probation and every person who may be subject to pardon and commutation of sentence.

**Section 27.** Amends s. 985.31(4)(e), F.S., removing the word “permanent” from a child’s medical file for serologic blood or urine test on a serious or habitual juvenile offender.

**Section 28.** Repeals s. 212.095(6)(d), F.S., removing a provision that is no longer utilized or applicable to current business practices.

**Section 29.** Repeals s. 238.03(9), F.S., removing antiquated language regarding a system that is no longer utilized.

**Sections 30 through 52.** Makes conforming changes.

**Section 53.** This section repeals s. 430.015, F.S. That provision is a statement of public necessity for identifying information contained in the records of elderly persons. The exemption that is specifically related to this statement is not contained in the same section.

**Section 54.** This section amends s. 440.132, F.S., by deleting subsection (2), which contains a statement of public necessity for investigatory records of the Agency for Health Care Administration made or received pursuant to s. 440.134, F.S. The exemption remains as subsection (1).

**Section 55.** This section repeals ss. 723.0065 and 768.301, F.S. Section 723.0065, F.S., contains a statement of public necessity related to mobile home park owner financial records; and s. 768.301, F.S., contains a statement of public necessity related to risk management programs entered into by the state and its agencies and subdivisions.

**Section 56.** This section removes the statement of public necessity for s. 943.031, F.S., for the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council. The exemption continues as paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of the section.

**Section 57.** Provides an October 1, 2004, effective date.

**CROSS-REFERENCE CHART**

<b>CURRENT LAW</b>	<b>COMMITTEE BILL</b>
119.01(1) (2) (3) (4)	No change Provision relocated to 119.01(2)(e); replaced with 119.01(3) Provision relocated to 119.01(2)(a); replaced with 119.012 Repealed; provision relocated to 119.021(2)(c)
119.011(1) (2) (3) (4)	Provision relocated to 119.011(11); replaced with 119.07(1)(a) No change No change No change
119.0115	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.07(6)(hh)
119.012	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.01(3)
119.02	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.10(1)(b)
119.021	Provision relocated to 119.011(5); replaced with 119.031, 119.041(1), 119.041(2), 119.05, 119.06, and 119.09
119.031	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.021(1)
119.041 (1) (2)	Repealed Provision relocated to 119.021(2)(c) Provision relocated to 119.021(3)
119.05	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.021(4)(a)
119.06	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.021(4)(b)

<b>CURRENT LAW</b>	<b>COMMITTEE BILL</b>
119.07(1)(a) (b) (c) (2)(a) (b) (c) (d) (3) (o)1. (o)2. (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)	Partial provision unchanged; other provisions relocated to 119.011(1), 119.011(8), 119.07(4), 119.07(4)(a)-(c) Provision relocated to 119.011(9) and 119.07(4)(d); replaced with 119.07(2)(a) Provision relocated to 119.07(5); replaced with 119.07(2)(a) Provision relocated to 119.07(1)(b), (c), and (d); replaced with 119.085 Provision relocated to 119.07(1)(e); replaced with 119.085 Provision relocated to 119.07(1)(f); replaced with 119.085 Repealed; provision relocated to 119.07(1)(g) Provision relocated to 119.07(6); replaced with 119.08(1)(a), 119.08(1)(b), 119.08(2), and 119.08(3) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.011(6) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.011(13) Provision relocated to 119.07(7); replaced with 119.07(1)(a), 119.07(1)(b), and 119.08(3) Provision relocated to 119.07(9); replaced with 119.07(1)(c) Provision relocated to 119.07(8); replaced with 119.07(3) Provision relocated to 39.2021 and 415.1071; replaced with 119.07(4) Provision relocated to 119.07(10); replaced with 119.07(6)
119.08 (1)(a) (b) (2) (3)	Repealed Provision relocated to 119.07(3)(a) Provision relocated to 119.07(3)(b) Provision relocated to 119.07(3)(c) and (d) Provision relocated to 119.07(3)(d) and 119.07(4)(e)
119.084(1)(a) (b) (c) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.084(1) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.011(6) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.011(10) No change Provision relocated to 119.01(2)(d); replaced with 119.084(7) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.01(2)(b) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.01(2)(f) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.01(2)(c) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.084(3)
119.085	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.07(2)
119.09	Repealed; provision relocated to 119.021(2)(d)
119.10(1) (2) (3)	Provision relocated to 119.10(1)(a) Provision relocated to 119.10(2)(a) Repealed; provision relocated to 119.10(2)(b)
119.105	No change

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

Article I, s. 24 of the State Constitution, provides that persons have the right to “inspect or copy” public records. Chapter 119, F.S., used the older phrase “inspect and examine” public records, though it also specifically was interpreted to permit copying. The bill substitutes the constitutional phraseology for the older statutory phraseology in this regard.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

By co-locating fee requirements, private and corporate citizens may be more aware of what fees are permitted to be charged for copies of records.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

There are minimal administrative and printing costs associated with this statutory revision. These costs are absorbable within existing state resources.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.