
Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity

SB 24-E — Records and Official Records

by Senators Brown-Waite and Cowin

Military separation forms are given to military personnel upon their release from active duty. Historically, the military recommended that veterans file these forms with the clerk of the court to ensure a record of their service in the United States Armed Forces. Since these forms contain a great deal of information about the individual, the military no longer recommends filing military separation forms with the clerk. This bill attempts to minimize the potential for identity theft that results from forms that were filed in the past.

This bill permits veterans or certain representatives to request the county recorder to remove military separation forms from official records that were filed before, on, or after the effective date of the bill. The requestor must identify the page number of the record to assist the clerk in the location of the record. No fee is permitted to be charged for the removal of this information.

The bill also provides an exception to the general public records exemption for social security numbers and financial account numbers included in court files by authorizing the holder of such number or the holder's representative to request the removal of that number from the file. As in the case of military separation forms, the requestor must identify the page number of the information to assist the clerk in the location of the record. No fee is permitted to be charged for the removal of this information.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 108-0

HB 43-E — Public Records Exemption for Florida Alzheimer's Center

by Rep. Byrd (CS/SB 78-E by Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee and Senator Lee)

This bill creates an exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information relating to clients of programs created or funded through the Florida Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute (the "institute"). Exempt information may be held by the institute, the University of South Florida, the State Board of Education or by service providers. Additionally, the bill makes exempt any medical or health records relating to patients that are created or received by the institute. Further, the bill exempts methods of manufacture or production, potential trade secrets, potentially patentable material, actual trade secrets, or proprietary information. The identities of donors to the institute who wish to remain anonymous are also made exempt under the bill. Finally, any information that is confidential or exempt by

law or by another state, nation or the Federal Government, when in the possession of the institute, is also exempt.

If approved by the Governor, contingent upon the adoption of Senate Bill 20-E or similar legislation, these provisions take effect July 1, 2002.

Vote: Senate 36-3; House 116-0