A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; amending s. 539.003, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for records relating to pawnbroker transactions that are delivered to the Department of Law Enforcement; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 539.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

539.003 Confidentiality.—All records relating to pawnbroker transactions delivered to appropriate law enforcement officials and the Department of Law Enforcement pursuant to s. 539.001 are confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and may be used only for official law enforcement purposes. This section does not prohibit the disclosure by the appropriate law enforcement officials or the Department of Law Enforcement of the name and address of the pawnbroker, the name and address of the conveying customer, or a description of pawned property to the alleged owner of pawned property.

Section 2. The amendments to s. 539.003, Florida Statutes, made by this act are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. If such amendments are not saved from repeal, the text of s. 539.003, Florida Statutes, shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2026, except that any amendments to such text enacted 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 3. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that records related to pawnbroker transactions that are delivered to the Department of Law Enforcement be made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature previously found that identical records related to pawnbroker transactions which are delivered to appropriate law enforcement officials under s. 539.001, Florida Statutes, contain information of a sensitive and personal nature to the pledgor or seller of pledged goods and thus made such records confidential and exempt from disclosure under s. 539.003, Florida Statutes. The Legislature finds that requiring pawnbroker transaction records to be delivered to the Department of Law Enforcement does not change the sensitive and personal nature of such

records and, therefore, finds that such records must be made confidential and exempt from public records requirements.

Section 4. This act shall take effect on the same date that HB 1345 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.