March 29, 2021

Senate Regulated Industries Committee
525 Knott Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1100

Re: SB 1836 Public Records/Lottery Winners

The First Amendment Foundation writes to express our support of the amendment to House Bill 1395. The amendment ensures that the names of those who win a lottery prize greater than $250,000 will be publicly accessible 90 days after claiming their lottery prize. The amendment ensures that lottery winners have sufficient time to hire an attorney, obtain financial advice, notify family, and take necessary security precautions, while ultimately disclosing the information to the public. This exemption thoughtfully and properly balances the privacy concerns of lottery winners and the public’s right to know.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know whether we can provide any further information.

With best regards,

FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

Pamela C. Marsh
President

cc: The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President, Florida Senate
    The Honorable Tina Polsky, Florida Senate
    Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment Foundation
    Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
    Lisa Nellessen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News Editors