
DIGEST

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HB 156 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Freiberg

Abstract: Requires criminal history record checks for purposes of educator credentials and teaching authorizations and authorizes the state Dept. of Education to charge a processing fee for such purposes.

Present law provides relative to the criminal history review of educators and teachers and to their hiring, dismissal, and credentials or authorizations with respect thereto. Proposed law requires criminal background checks at the state and federal level, including the following:

- (1) A requirement that all applicants for an educator credential or teaching authorization undergo a criminal background check.
- (2) The authority of the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to charge a processing fee of up to \$25 and to collect the fees associated with state and federal record checks and with fingerprinting. Further authorizes an annual fee increase of up to 5%.

Proposed law authorizes BESE to adopt rules under which the board itself, separately from DOE, may request criminal background information on any applicant for or recipient of an educator credential or teaching authorization.

Proposed law requires anyone granted an educator credential or teaching authorization prior to June 1, 2023, to obtain a criminal history record check in the same manner as provided in proposed law for new applicants when seeking its renewal, advancement, or any other modification or by June 1, 2028, whichever occurs sooner.

Present law prohibits BESE from granting an educator credential or teaching authorization to anyone who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to any offense listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)). Proposed law retains present law and further prohibits BESE from renewing, advancing, or otherwise modifying the educator credential or teaching authorization of anyone who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to any offense listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)).

Effective August 1, 2022; however, proposed law requiring an applicant for an educator credential or teaching authorization to undergo a criminal history record check shall not be implemented until June 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 15:587(A)(1)(j)(ii) and 587.1(B)(1)(c) and R.S. 17:15(C); Repeals R.S. 15:587.1(A)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Authorize BESE to request criminal background information on applicants for and recipients of credentials.
2. Authorize an annual fee increase up to 5% for fingerprinting or processing record checks.