

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 420**

**2026 Regular Session**

**Berault**

**CHILDREN/DCFS: Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain background checks on all employees**

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DIGEST

Present law provides for the functions, powers, and duties of the secretary of DCFS.

Proposed law modifies present law by adding that the secretary shall conduct criminal background checks and searches of the state central registry of substantiated abuse or neglect (central registry) on all current and prospective employees of DCFS in accordance with proposed law.

Present law provides that no person shall be hired by DCFS for duties including the investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys until the employee has submitted to a criminal background check and DCFS has inspected the central registry for the employee's name.

Present law provides that any employee of DCFS whose duties include the investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys whose name is found on the central registry shall be terminated except that a permanent classified employee shall not be terminated until he has exhausted his administrative appeal rights pursuant to present law.

Proposed law extends the requirements of present law to all employees of DCFS.

(Amends R.S. 36:474(B)(1)(a)(intro. para.) and R.S. 46:51.2(A)(1)(intro. para.) and (2); Adds R.S. 36:474(A)(10))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the engrossed bill

1. Provides that the secretary of DCFS shall conduct background checks and central registry searches on all employees instead of granting the secretary the authority to conduct background checks.
2. Makes technical changes.