

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 420****2026 Regular Session****Berault**

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

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Requires the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services to conduct a criminal background on all employees and prospective employees.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

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))