

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 420

BY REPRESENTATIVE BERAULT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:474(B)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and R.S. 46:51.2
3 (A)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2) and to enact R.S. 36:474(A)(10), relative to
4 employees of the Department of Children and Family Services; to provide for hiring
5 requirements; to require a criminal background check; to require review of the
6 central registry; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 36:474(B)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and
9 reenacted and R.S. 36:474(A)(10) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §474. Powers and duties of the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
11 Services

12 A. In addition to the functions, powers, and duties otherwise vested in the
13 secretary by law, he shall:

14 * * *
15 (10) Conduct a criminal background check and a search of the state central
16 registry of substantiated abuse or neglect reports for all employees and prospective
17 employees of the department in accordance with R.S. 46:51.2.

18 * * *
19 B. The secretary shall have authority to:

20 (1)(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in R.S. 36:801 ~~and 802-9:~~
21 * * *

1 Section 2. R.S. 46:51.2(A)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2) are hereby amended
2 and reenacted to read as follows:

3 §51.2. Criminal history and central registry information

4 A.(1) No person shall be hired by the department ~~whose duties include the~~
5 ~~investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over~~
6 ~~children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys, until both the~~
7 following conditions are met:

8 * * *

9 (2) Any employee of the department ~~whose duties include the investigation~~
10 ~~of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct~~
11 ~~care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys and whose name is recorded on~~
12 the state central registry subsequent to January 1, 2010, shall be terminated by the
13 department. A permanent classified employee shall not be terminated until he has
14 exhausted his administrative appeal rights pursuant to Children's Code Article
15 616.1.1.

16 * * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____