
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6417

AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires youth camps licensed by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), starting October 1, 2022, to require prospective employees age 18 or older to submit to comprehensive background checks if they are applying for positions that provide care or involve unsupervised access to any child in the youth camp. The bill establishes specifications for these background checks.

Under the bill, prospective employees may begin working on a provisional basis while the background check is pending. Their work must always be supervised by an employee who was subjected to the comprehensive background check within the previous five years.

It also requires licensees to maintain, and make available upon OEC's request, any documentation associated with a comprehensive background check for at least five years from the date the (1) background check was completed, if the subject of the comprehensive background check was not hired, or (2) employment ended, if the licensee had hired the subject of the comprehensive background check.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMPREHENSIVE BACKGROUND CHECKS

The bill provides two options to meet the bill's background check requirement. Under the first option, the background check must include a (1) national criminal history record check, (2) state child abuse registry check, (3) state sex offender registry check, and (4) search of the National Sex Offender Registry Public Website maintained by the United States Department of Justice.

Alternatively, a background check may be done by a third-party provider of criminal history record checks conducted through a centralized database established by an independent national organization.

Under the bill, prior to conducting a child abuse registry check, (1) the youth camps must submit to OEC a form signed by the prospective employee authorizing the release of personal information and (2) OEC must submit this signed form to the Department of Children and Families. The bill requires OEC to prescribe the form.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 6511, favorably reported by the Committee on Children, requires certain municipalities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations operating youth athletic activities to require prospective employees who are age 18 or older and applying for a position as coach, instructor, or athletic trainer to submit to a comprehensive background check at least once every five years, starting October 1, 2022.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 1 (03/11/2021)