

Committee on Education

HB 21 — Background Screening for Noninstructional Contractors on School Grounds

by Rep. Perry and others (SB 318 by Senator Grimsley)

The bill requires the Department of Education to create a uniform, statewide photo identification badge signifying that a noninstructional contractor meets certain background screening and other requirements. The bill requires the Department of Education to determine a uniform cost that a school district may charge for a badge.

The bill requires a school district to issue the badge if a noninstructional contractor:

- Is a resident and citizen, or a permanent resident alien of the U.S.;
- Is at least 18 years old; and
- Meets the background screening standards in s. 1012.467, F.S.

The bill requires a noninstructional contractor to wear the badge in a visible manner at all times when on school grounds. The bill requires all school districts to recognize the badge, which means that noninstructional contractors who work for multiple districts would not be required to obtain and pay for multiple identification badges. The badge is valid for five years; however, a noninstructional contractor is required to return the badge to the school district within 48 hours of self-reporting an arrest for any disqualifying offense.

The bill does not apply to noninstructional contractors who are exempt from background screening requirements.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2013.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 117-0