Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Argenziano

3-987-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to the Department of Juvenile
3	Justice; amending s. 985.644, F.S.; deleting
4	obsolete references to the Department of
5	Children and Family Services; deleting
б	provisions exempting certain volunteers from
7	background-screening requirements; specifying
8	that all positions within the department are
9	positions of special trust or responsibility;
10	requiring drug testing and a background
11	investigation as a condition of employment and
12	continued employment; authorizing the
13	department to collect damages from a contractor
14	that fails to comply with the
15	background-screening requirements; requiring
16	the department to establish by rule fees to
17	cover the cost of retaining fingerprint
18	information of providers under contract with
19	the department; providing an effective date.
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21	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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23	Section 1. Section 985.644, Florida Statutes, is
24	amended to read:
25	985.644 Departmental contracting powers; personnel
26	standards and screening
27	(1) The department of Juvenile Justice or the
28	Department of Children and Family Services, as appropriate,
29	may contract with the Federal Government, other state
30	departments and agencies, county and municipal governments and
31	agencies, public and private agencies, and private individuals
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1 and corporations in carrying out the purposes of, and the 2 responsibilities established in, this chapter. 3 (a) When the department of Juvenile Justice or the 4 Department of Children and Family Services contracts with a provider for any program for children, all personnel, 5 6 including owners, operators, employees, and volunteers, in the 7 facility must be of good moral character. Each contract 8 entered into by the either department for services delivered on an appointment or intermittent basis by a provider that 9 does not have regular custodial responsibility for children 10 and each contract with a school for before or aftercare 11 12 services must ensure that the owners, operators, and all 13 personnel who have direct contact with children are of good moral character. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent 14 basis for less than 40 hours per month need not be screened if 15 16 the volunteer is under direct and constant supervision by 17 persons who meet the screening requirements. 18 (b) The department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Family Services shall require 19 employment screening pursuant to chapter 435, using the level 2.0 21 2 standards set forth in that chapter for personnel $\frac{1}{2}$ 22 programs for children or youths. All positions within the 23 department are deemed to be positions of special trust or responsibility and, as a condition of continued employment, 2.4 each employee shall undergo personnel screening, including, 25 but not limited to, drug testing as provided in s. 112.0455 26 27 and a security background investigation as provided in chapter 2.8 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set forth in 29 that chapter. 30 (c) The department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Children and Family Services may grant 31

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1 exemptions from disqualification from working with children as 2 provided in s. 435.07. 3 (2) The department may contract with the Federal 4 Government, other state departments and agencies, county and municipal governments and agencies, public and private 5 6 agencies, and private individuals and corporations in carrying 7 out the purposes and the responsibilities of the delinquency services and programs of the department. 8 9 (3) The department shall adopt a rule pursuant to 10 chapter 120 establishing a procedure to provide notice of policy changes that affect contracted delinquency services and 11 12 programs. A policy is defined as an operational requirement 13 that applies to only the specified contracted delinquency service or program. The procedure shall include: 14 (a) Public notice of policy development. 15 (b) Opportunity for public comment on the proposed 16 17 policy. 18 (c) Assessment for fiscal impact upon the department and providers. 19 The department's response to comments received. 20 (d) 21 (4) When the department contracts with a provider for 22 any delinquency service or program, all personnel, including 23 all owners, operators, employees, and volunteers in the facility or providing the service or program shall be of good 2.4 25 moral character. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent 26 basis for less than 40 hours per month is not required to be 27 screened if the volunteer is under direct and constant 2.8 supervision by persons who meet the screening requirements. 29 (5)(a) For any person employed by the department, or 30 by a provider under contract with the department, in 31

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1 delinquency facilities, services, or programs, the department 2 shall require: 1. A level 2 employment screening pursuant to chapter 3 4 435 prior to employment. 5 2. A federal criminal records check by the Federal б Bureau of Investigation every 5 years following the date of 7 the person's employment. 8 (b) Except for law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers, to whom s. 943.13(5) applies, 9 the department shall electronically submit to the Department 10 of Law Enforcement: 11 12 1. Fingerprint information obtained during the 13 employment screening required by subparagraph (a)1. 2. Beginning on December 15, 2005, fingerprint 14 information for all persons employed by the department, or by 15 a provider under contract with the department, in delinquency 16 17 facilities, services, or programs if such fingerprint 18 information has not previously been electronically submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement under this paragraph. 19 20 (c) If a provider under contract with the department 21 fails to comply with the background screening requirements set 22 forth in chapter 435 and paragraph (a), the department may 23 impose and collect a payment of liquidated damages for noncompliance with the contract, which the department may use 2.4 as other similar funds. 25 (d)(c) All fingerprint information electronically 26 27 submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement under paragraph 2.8 (b) shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement and 29 entered into the statewide automated fingerprint identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). 30 Thereafter, such fingerprint information shall be available 31

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1 for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprint 2 information entered into the statewide automated fingerprint identification system pursuant to s. 943.051 until the 3 fingerprint information is removed pursuant to paragraph(f) 4 (e). The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest 5 б fingerprint information received pursuant to s. 943.051 7 against the fingerprint information entered into the statewide 8 automated fingerprint system pursuant to this subsection. Any arrest records identified as a result of the search shall be 9 10 reported to the department in the manner and timeframe established by the Department of Law Enforcement by rule. 11 12 (e) (d) The department shall pay an annual fee to the 13 Department of Law Enforcement for its costs resulting from the fingerprint information retention services required by this 14 subsection. The amount of the annual fee and procedures for 15 the submission and retention of fingerprint information and 16 17 for the dissemination of search results shall be established 18 by the Department of Law Enforcement by a rule that is applicable to the department individually pursuant to this 19 subsection or that is applicable to the department and other 20 21 employing agencies pursuant to rulemaking authority otherwise 22 provided by law. The costs of retaining fingerprint 23 information associated with a provider under contract with the department shall be borne by that provider. The department 2.4 shall establish the amount of the annual fee by rule, based on 25 information provided by the Department of Law Enforcement and 26 27 the actual cost of collecting the fee from all providers under 2.8 contract with the department. 29 (f) (e) The department shall notify the Department of Law Enforcement when a person whose fingerprint information is 30 retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under this 31

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1	subsection is no longer employed by the department, or by a
2	provider under contract with the department, in a delinquency
3	facility, service, or program. This notice shall be provided
4	by the department to the Department of Law Enforcement no
5	later than 6 months after the date of the change in the
6	person's employment status. Fingerprint information for
7	persons identified by the department in the notice shall be
8	removed from the statewide automated fingerprint system.
9	(6) The department may grant exemptions from
10	disqualification from working with children as provided in s.
11	435.07.
12	Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2007.
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15	SENATE SUMMARY
16	Revises provisions governing personnel requirements for the Department of Juvenile Justice. Deletes provisions
17	exempting volunteers from screening requirements if they assist for less than 40 hours per month. Provides that
18	all positions within the department are positions of special trust or responsibility and employees are subject
19	to drug testing and a background investigation as a condition of employment and continued employment.
20	Authorizes the department to collect damages from a contractor that fails to comply with the requirements for
21	background screening. Requires the department to establish by rule fees to cover the cost of retaining
22	fingerprint information of providers under contract with the department.
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