

By Senator Ring

32-536-07

1    A bill to be entitled  
 2    An act relating to criminal history record  
 3    checks; defining the terms "sports coach" and  
 4    "independent youth athletic team"; requiring  
 5    any person who is a sports coach of an  
 6    independent youth athletic team to meet level 2  
 7    screening requirements as described in ch. 435,  
 8    F.S.; providing testing procedures; requiring  
 9    each sanctioning authority to sign an affidavit  
 10    annually, under penalty of perjury, stating  
 11    that all sports coaches under its jurisdiction  
 12    have been screened or are newly hired and  
 13    awaiting the results of the required screening;  
 14    requiring each sports coach to pay the costs of  
 15    his or her screening; providing that a sports  
 16    coach who willfully, knowingly, or  
 17    intentionally violates the act commits a  
 18    misdemeanor of the first degree; providing  
 19    criminal penalties; providing an effective  
 20    date.  
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 22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 23  
 24    Section 1. Criminal history record checks for sports  
 25 coaches.--  
 26    (1) As used in this section, the term:  
 27    (a) "Independent youth athletic team" or "team" means  
 28 an athletic team that:  
 29    1. Includes a minor as a team member;  
 30    2. Is sanctioned by an independent organization; and  
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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1           3. Is not sanctioned by or affiliated with a public or  
2 private school.

3           (b) "Minor" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01,  
4 Florida Statutes.

5           (c) "Sports coach" means a person who is authorized by  
6 a sanctioning authority to be responsible for leading an  
7 independent youth athletic team and any person assisting the  
8 sports coach. A sports coach is an individual who:

9           1. Works or is to work for the independent youth  
10 athletic team 20 or more hours within a calendar year;

11           2. Has or is to have unsupervised contact with minors;  
12 and

13           3. Serves or is to serve as a chaperone for minors on  
14 any overnight activity related to the independent youth  
15 athletic team.

16           (2) Any person in this state who acts as a sports  
17 coach to an independent youth athletic team must meet level 2  
18 screening requirements as described in chapter 435, Florida  
19 Statutes.

20           (3) Except as otherwise provided by law, the following  
21 requirements apply:

22           (a) Each sports coach who coaches an independent youth  
23 athletic team must, within 5 working days after being  
24 designated as a sports coach, submit to the appropriate  
25 sanctioning authority a complete set of fingerprints and other  
26 information necessary to conduct a screening under chapter  
27 435, Florida Statutes.

28           (b) The sanctioning authority must submit the  
29 information necessary for screening to the Department of Law  
30 Enforcement within 5 working days after receiving it. The  
31 Department of Law Enforcement shall conduct a search of its

1 criminal and juvenile records and request that the Federal  
2 Bureau of Investigation conduct a search of its records for  
3 each sports coach for whom the request is made. The Department  
4 of Law Enforcement shall respond to the sanctioning authority  
5 and the sanctioning authority shall inform the sports coach  
6 whether screening has revealed disqualifying information.

7 (c) A sports coach whose background is being checked  
8 must supply any missing criminal information or other  
9 necessary information to the sanctioning authority within 30  
10 days after the sanctioning authority makes a request for the  
11 information or be subject to automatic disqualification from  
12 acting as a sports coach.

13 (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal  
14 law, a sports coach may be placed on probationary status  
15 pending a determination of compliance with minimum standards  
16 set forth in this section.

17 (5) Each sanctioning authority that is required to  
18 conduct level 2 background screening must sign an affidavit  
19 annually, under penalty of perjury, stating that all sports  
20 coaches under its jurisdiction have been screened or are newly  
21 hired and awaiting the results of the required screening.

22 (6) A sports coach shall pay the costs of his or her  
23 own screening. Payment shall be submitted to the Department of  
24 Law Enforcement along with the request for screening.

25 (7) A sports coach who willfully, knowingly, or  
26 intentionally violates this section commits a misdemeanor of  
27 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
28 775.083, Florida Statutes.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires a person who is a sports coach to an independent youth athletic team to meet level 2 screening requirements as described in ch. 435, F.S. Provides screening procedures. Requires each sanctioning authority to sign an affidavit annually stating that all sports coaches have been screened or are newly hired and are awaiting the results of the required screening. Requires that each sports coach pay the costs of the screening. Provides that a sports coach who willfully, knowingly, or intentionally violates the act commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.