

By Senator Fasano

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to criminal history background
3 screening for recipients of and applicants for welfare
4 benefits; requiring an applicant for or recipient of
5 certain specified government welfare benefits to
6 submit to the Department of Children and Family
7 Services the name of each adult, if any, living in the
8 home of the applicant or recipient or who has regular
9 care or custody of a child of the applicant or
10 recipient; requiring each recipient, applicant, or
11 other named person to undergo level 2 background
12 screening; requiring each recipient, applicant, or
13 other named person who has a criminal history for any
14 type of violent behavior to enroll and complete a
15 state-approved parenting and anger management course
16 before any welfare benefit is paid to the applicant or
17 recipient; requiring the recipient or applicant to
18 sign an affidavit containing certain specified
19 information; providing criminal and civil penalties;
20 providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24 Section 1. Criminal history background screening for
25 applicants for or recipients of welfare benefits.-

26 (1) A person who receives or applies for state or federal
27 health and human services benefits, including, but not limited
28 to, housing assistance, Medicaid, food stamps, Temporary
29 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security

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30 Income (SSI), or any other state or federal welfare benefit for
31 families with children shall submit to the Department of
32 Children and Family Services the name of each adult, if any,
33 living in the home of the applicant or recipient or who has
34 regular care, custody, or control of a minor child of the
35 recipient or applicant.

36 (2) An applicant, recipient, or person named in subsection
37 (1) shall submit to background screening in accordance with the
38 level 2 standards for screening set forth in chapter 435,
39 Florida Statutes.

40 (3) If an applicant, recipient, or other named person has a
41 criminal history for any type of violent behavior, he or she
42 shall enroll in and complete a parenting and anger management
43 course approved by the Department of Children and Family
44 Services before the department or any other state or local
45 entity pays the applicant or recipient the welfare benefits to
46 which the applicant or recipient would otherwise be entitled.

47 (4) The applicant or recipient shall sign an affidavit
48 stating that he or she:

49 (a) Has submitted the name of each person who presently
50 resides in the applicant's or recipient's home or who has
51 regular care, custody, or control of the child of the recipient
52 or applicant.

53 (b) Will notify and update the Department of Children and
54 Family Services any time a new person moves into the home or
55 assumes child-monitoring duties for the applicant or recipient.

56 (5) An applicant or recipient who fails to comply with the
57 requirements of this section:

58 (a) Commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable

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59 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, Florida Statutes;

60 (b) Is subject to a fine of \$500; and

61 (c) Is subject to a loss of the government benefit for a

62 period of time not to exceed 6 months.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.