

By Senator Farmer

34-01438-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to charter school employees; amending
3 s. 1002.33, F.S.; requiring each charter school
4 principal, chief financial officer, or their
5 equivalent, to meet certain certification
6 requirements; amending s. 1012.32, F.S.; conforming a
7 cross-reference; providing an effective date.
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
10

11 Section 1. Present paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of
12 subsection (12) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are
13 redesignated as paragraphs (h), (i), and (j), respectively, and
14 a new paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to read:

15 1002.33 Charter schools.—

16 (12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

17 (g) Each charter school principal, chief financial officer,
18 or equivalent position must hold a valid certification issued by
19 a third-party credentialing organization that is recognized
20 under s. 402.40, at least 30 days before the school opens or
21 before his or her first date of employment, whichever comes
22 first. The credentialing organization must certify the
23 individual's core competence in the administration of a charter
24 school, including, but not limited to, developing and adjusting
25 business plans; accurate financial planning and good business
26 practices, including accounting for costs and income; state and
27 federal grant and student performance accountability
28 requirements; identification of, and application for, state and
29 federal funding sources; governance, including government in the

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30 sunshine, conflicts of interest, ethics, and financial
31 responsibility. An individual certified under this paragraph
32 meets the training requirements under s. 1002.33(6) (f),
33 (9) (j)4., and (12) (g)3.

34 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
35 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

36 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.-

37 (2)

38 (b) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are
39 hired or contracted to fill positions in any charter school and
40 members of the governing board of any charter school, in
41 compliance with s. 1002.33(12) (h) ~~s. 1002.33(12) (g)~~, must, upon
42 employment, engagement of services, or appointment, undergo
43 background screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s.
44 1012.56, whichever is applicable, by filing with the district
45 school board for the school district in which the charter school
46 is located a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized
47 law enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school
48 district who is trained to take fingerprints.

49
50 Fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law
51 Enforcement for statewide criminal and juvenile records checks
52 and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal criminal
53 records checks. A person subject to this subsection who is found
54 ineligible for employment under s. 1012.315, or otherwise found
55 through background screening to have been convicted of any crime
56 involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board
57 of Education, shall not be employed, engaged to provide
58 services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact

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59 with students. Probationary persons subject to this subsection
60 terminated because of their criminal record have the right to
61 appeal such decisions. The cost of the background screening may
62 be borne by the district school board, the charter school, the
63 employee, the contractor, or a person subject to this
64 subsection.

65 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.