1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to educator conduct; amending s. 3 1001.10, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to maintain a disqualification list of certain 4 5 persons; providing for the removal of a person from 6 the list under certain circumstances; requiring the 7 State Board of Education to adopt rules; requiring the 8 department to provide access to specified information 9 to certain staff for specified purposes; amending s. 10 1001.42, F.S.; providing that certain provisions relating to conduct and prohibition from employment 11 12 apply to educational support employees; prohibiting certain employees and personnel from employment under 13 14 certain circumstances; requiring district school boards to report specified persons to the department 15 for inclusion on the list; providing that a school 16 17 board official forfeits his or her salary for 1 year under additional circumstances; amending s. 1001.51, 18 19 F.S.; providing that a district school superintendent forfeits his or her salary for 1 year under additional 20 21 circumstances; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; prohibiting 22 certain individuals from employment at a charter school; providing requirements for charter schools 23 relating to employing certain individuals; requiring 24 25 the governing board of a charter school to establish

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26 the duty of instructional personnel and school 27 administrators to report specified alleged misconduct 28 by certain individuals; prohibiting an individual on 29 the list from employment in specified positions; 30 requiring a charter school to report specified 31 individuals to the department for inclusion on a 32 certain list; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; requiring 33 certain private schools to include educational support employees in specified policies; requiring certain 34 35 private schools to deny employment to certain persons; 36 prohibiting the employment of certain employees and 37 personnel under circumstances; requiring private schools to report specified persons to the department 38 39 for inclusion on a certain list; authorizing the 40 Commissioner of Education to permanently revoke an 41 owner's or operator's authority to establish or 42 operate a private school in the state under certain 43 circumstances; amending s. 1006.061, F.S.; revising the contents of a sign certain educational entities 44 45 are required to post to include information relating to reporting of certain criminal acts; amending s. 46 47 1012.27, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain 48 employment history checks to include a specified 49 affidavit; amending s. 1012.31, requiring certain 50 persons to execute and maintain an affidavit of

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51 separation form for specified purposes; providing requirements for such affidavit; amending s. 1012.315, 52 53 F.S.; providing that certain persons are ineligible 54 for an educator certification or specified employment; 55 amending s. 1012.795, F.S.; revising acts that warrant 56 a disciplinary action by the commission; amending s. 57 1012.796, F.S.; prohibiting the department from 58 issuing a certificate to certain persons; requiring 59 the commissioner to make a determination of probable 60 cause within a specified timeframe for complaints 61 relating to sexual misconduct with a student; 62 providing for such timeframe to be held in abeyance under certain circumstances; providing construction; 63 64 requiring certain individuals to be placed on a disgualification list; requiring the commissioner to 65 66 remove certain suspended personnel or administrators from certain positions under specified circumstances; 67 requiring a district school superintendent to 68 69 immediately suspend certain individuals and take 70 specified action as a results of alleged misconduct; 71 prohibiting certain individuals from serving or 72 applying to serve in specified positions at public 73 schools and specified private schools; providing a 74 timeframe for specified investigations; providing 75 timeframe for administrative suspension; providing

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76	criminal penalties; amending s. 1012.797, F.S.;
77	requiring certain law enforcement notification to
78	charter and private schools; providing an effective
79	date.
80	
81	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
82	
83	Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1001.10,
84	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
85	1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
86	duties
87	(4) The Department of Education shall:
88	(a) Provide technical assistance to school districts,
89	charter schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
90	and private schools that accept scholarship students who
91	participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 in
92	the development of policies, procedures, and training related to
93	employment practices and standards of ethical conduct for
94	instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in
95	s. 1012.01.
96	(b) Maintain a disqualification list that includes all of
97	the following:
98	1. The identity of each person who has been permanently
99	denied an educator certificate or whose educator certificate has
100	been permanently revoked and has been placed on the list as
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101	directed by the Education Practices Commission pursuant to s.
102	1012.795(1) or s. 1012.796(7).
103	2. The identity of each person who has been permanently
104	disqualified by the commissioner from owning or operating a
105	private school that participates in state scholarship programs
106	<u>under s. 1002.421.</u>
107	3. The identity of each person who has been terminated, or
108	has resigned in lieu of termination, from employment as a result
109	of sexual misconduct with a student.
110	4. The identity of each person who is ineligible for
111	educator certification or employment pursuant to s. 1012.315.
112	(c) The department may remove a person from the
113	disqualification list if the person demonstrates that:
114	1. A completed law enforcement investigation resulted in
115	an exoneration or no conviction or finding of guilt and a
116	completed investigation and proceeding, as applicable, by the
117	responsible education agency resulted in a finding that the
118	person did not commit disqualifying conduct;
119	2. The person was not the subject of the report of
120	disqualifying conduct and was included on the disqualification
121	list in error or as a result of mistaken identity; or
122	3. The employer that submitted the person for inclusion on
123	the disqualification list requests that the person be removed
124	and submits documentation to support the request.
125	(d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to

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126	implement this subsection.
127	(5) The Department of Education shall provide authorized
128	staff of school districts, charter schools, the Florida School
129	for the Deaf and the Blind, and private schools that accept
130	scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship
131	program under chapter 1002 with access to electronic
132	verification of information from the following employment
133	screening tools:
134	(a) The Professional Practices' Database of Disciplinary
135	Actions Against Educators.; and
136	(b) The <u>department's</u> <del>Department of Education's</del> Teacher
137	Certification Database.
138	(c) The department's disqualification list under paragraph
139	<u>(4)(b)</u> .
140	
140 141	This subsection does not require the department to provide these
	This subsection does not require the department to provide these staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the
141	
141 142	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the
141 142 143	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data
141 142 143 144	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data necessary for performing employment history checks of the
141 142 143 144 145	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data necessary for performing employment history checks of the <u>persons</u> instructional personnel and school administrators
141 142 143 144 145 146	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data necessary for performing employment history checks of the <u>persons</u> instructional personnel and school administrators included in the databases.
141 142 143 144 145 146 147	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data necessary for performing employment history checks of the <u>persons</u> instructional personnel and school administrators included in the databases. Section 2. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 1001.42,
141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148	<pre>staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data necessary for performing employment history checks of the <u>persons</u> instructional personnel and school administrators included in the databases. Section 2. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:</pre>

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powers and perform all duties listed below: 151 152 (6) STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL 153 PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, AND SCHOOL OFFICERS. - Adopt 154 policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for 155 educational support employees, instructional personnel, 156 administrative personnel, and school officers. The policies must 157 require all educational support employees, instructional personnel, administrative personnel, and school officers, as 158 159 defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training on the standards; establish the duty of educational support employees, 160 instructional personnel, administrative personnel, and school 161 162 officers to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged misconduct by other educational support employees, instructional 163 164 or administrative personnel, and school officers which affects 165 the health, safety, or welfare of a student, including 166 misconduct that involves engaging in or soliciting sexual, 167 romantic, or lewd conduct with a student; require the district 168 school superintendent to report to law enforcement misconduct by 169 educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 170 school administrators that would result in disqualification from educator certification or employment as provided in s. 1012.315; 171 and include an explanation of the liability protections provided 172 under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. A district school board, or any of 173 its employees or personnel, may not enter into a confidentiality 174 175 agreement regarding terminated or dismissed educational support

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176 employees, instructional or administrative personnel, or school officers who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole or in 177 178 part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare 179 of a student, and may not provide educational support employees, 180 instructional personnel, administrative personnel, or school 181 officers with employment references or discuss the employees', 182 personnel's, or officers' performance with prospective employers 183 in another educational setting, without disclosing the employees', personnel's, or officers' misconduct. Any part of an 184 185 agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by educational support employees, 186 187 instructional personnel, administrative personnel, or school 188 officers which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 189 student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be 190 enforced. (7) PROHIBITION **DISQUALIFICATION** FROM EMPLOYMENT.-Prohibit 191 educational support employees, **Disqualify** instructional 192 personnel, and administrative personnel, as defined in s. 193 194 1012.01, from employment in any position that requires direct 195 contact with students if the employees or personnel are 196 ineligible for such employment under s. 1012.315 or have been

197 terminated or resigned in lieu of termination for sexual

misconduct with a student. If the prohibited conduct occurs 198

while employed, the district school board must report the 199 employees or personnel and the disqualifying circumstances to

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201 the department for inclusion on the disqualification list 202 maintained by the department pursuant s. 1001.10(4)(b). An 203 elected or appointed school board official forfeits his or her 204 salary for 1 year if: 205 The school board official knowingly signs and (a) 206 transmits to any state official a report of alleged misconduct 207 by educational support employees, instructional personnel, or administrative personnel which affects the health, safety, or 208 209 welfare of a student and the school board official knows the 210 report to be false or incorrect; or The school board official knowingly fails to adopt 211 (b) 212 policies that require: Educational support employees, instructional personnel, 213 1. 214 and administrative personnel to report alleged misconduct by 215 other educational support employees, instructional personnel, and administrative personnel; 216 217 2. The district school superintendent to report misconduct 218 by educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 219 school administrators that would result in disgualification from 220 educator certification or employment as provided in s. 1012.315 to the law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the 221 222 conduct; or The investigation of all reports of alleged misconduct 223 3. by educational support employees, instructional personnel, and 224 225 administrative personnel, if the misconduct affects the health, Page 9 of 42

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226 safety, or welfare of a student, regardless of whether the 227 person resigned or was terminated before the conclusion of the 228 investigation. The policies must require the district school 229 superintendent to notify the department of the result of the 230 investigation and whether the misconduct warranted termination, 231 regardless of whether the person resigned or was terminated 232 before the conclusion of the investigation. 233 Section 3. Subsection (12) of section 1001.51, Florida 234 Statutes, is amended to read: 235 1001.51 Duties and responsibilities of district school 236 superintendent.-The district school superintendent shall 237 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below and 238 elsewhere in the law, provided that, in so doing, he or she 239 shall advise and counsel with the district school board. The 240 district school superintendent shall perform all tasks necessary to make sound recommendations, nominations, proposals, and 241 242 reports required by law to be acted upon by the district school 243 board. All such recommendations, nominations, proposals, and 244 reports by the district school superintendent shall be either 245 recorded in the minutes or shall be made in writing, noted in 246 the minutes, and filed in the public records of the district 247 school board. It shall be presumed that, in the absence of the record required in this section, the recommendations, 248 nominations, and proposals required of the district school 249 250 superintendent were not contrary to the action taken by the

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251 district school board in such matters.

(12) RECORDS AND REPORTS.-Recommend such records as should be kept in addition to those prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education; prepare forms for keeping such records as are approved by the district school board; ensure that such records are properly kept; and make all reports that are needed or required, as follows:

258 Forms, blanks, and reports.-Require that all employees (a) 259 accurately keep all records and promptly make in proper form all reports required by the education code or by rules of the State 260 261 Board of Education; recommend the keeping of such additional 262 records and the making of such additional reports as may be 263 deemed necessary to provide data essential for the operation of 264 the school system; and prepare such forms and blanks as may be 265 required and ensure that these records and reports are properly 266 prepared.

267 (b) Reports to the department.-Prepare, for the approval 268 of the district school board, all reports required by law or 269 rules of the State Board of Education to be made to the 270 department and transmit promptly all such reports, when 271 approved, to the department, as required by law. If any reports 272 are not transmitted at the time and in the manner prescribed by law or by State Board of Education rules, the salary of the 273 274 district school superintendent must be withheld until the report has been properly submitted. Unless otherwise provided by rules 275

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of the State Board of Education, the annual report on attendance and personnel is due on or before July 1, and the annual school budget and the report on finance are due on the date prescribed by the commissioner.

281 Any district school superintendent who knowingly signs and 282 transmits to any state official a report that the superintendent 283 knows to be false or incorrect; who knowingly fails to complete 284 the investigation of investigate any allegation of misconduct that by instructional personnel or school administrators, as 285 286 defined in s. 1012.01, which affects the health, safety, or 287 welfare of a student, that would be a violation of s. 800.101, 288 or that would be a disqualifying offense under s. 1012.315, or 289 any allegation of sexual misconduct with a student; who 290 knowingly fails to report the alleged misconduct to the 291 department as required in s. 1012.796; or who knowingly fails to 292 report misconduct to the law enforcement agencies with 293 jurisdiction over the conduct pursuant to district school board 294 policy under s. 1001.42(6), forfeits his or her salary for 1 295 year following the date of such act or failure to act. 296 Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (12) of section 297 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1002.33 Charter schools.-298 299 (12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.-300 (g)1. A charter school shall employ or contract with

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301 employees who have undergone background screening as provided in 302 s. 1012.32. Members of the governing board of the charter school 303 shall also undergo background screening in a manner similar to 304 that provided in s. 1012.32. An individual may not be employed 305 as an employee or contract personnel of a charter school or 306 serve as a member of a charter school governing board if the 307 individual is on the disqualification list maintained by the 308 department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). 309 A charter school shall prohibit educational support 2. 310 employees, disqualify instructional personnel, and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, from employment in any 311 312 position that requires direct contact with students if the 313 employees, personnel, or administrators are ineligible for such 314 employment under s. 1012.315 or have been terminated or resigned 315 in lieu of termination for sexual misconduct with a student. If 316 the prohibited conduct occurs while employed, a charter school 317 must report the individual and the disqualifying circumstances 318 to the department for inclusion on the disqualification list 319 maintained pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). 320 The governing board of a charter school shall adopt 3. 321 policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for 322 educational support employees, instructional personnel, and 323 school administrators. The policies must require all educational support employees, instructional personnel, and school 324 325 administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training

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326 on the standards; establish the duty of educational support employees, instructional personnel, and school administrators to 327 328 report, and procedures for reporting, alleged misconduct that by 329 other instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student; and include 330 331 an explanation of the liability protections provided under ss. 332 39.203 and 768.095. A charter school, or any of its employees, 333 may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding 334 terminated or dismissed educational support employees, 335 instructional personnel, or school administrators, or employees, 336 personnel, or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, 337 based in whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, and may not provide employees, 338 339 instructional personnel, or school administrators with 340 employment references or discuss the employees', personnel's, or 341 administrators' performance with prospective employers in 342 another educational setting, without disclosing the employees', 343 personnel's, or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an 344 agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by educational support employees, 345 346 instructional personnel, or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary 347 to public policy, and may not be enforced. 348

349 4. Before employing <u>an individual</u> instructional personnel
 350 or school administrators in any position that requires direct

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351 contact with students, a charter school shall conduct employment 352 history checks of each <u>individual</u> of the personnel's or 353 administrators' previous employers, screen the instructional 354 personnel or school administrators through use of the educator 355 screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and document the 356 findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the charter 357 school must document efforts to contact the employer.

358 5. The sponsor of a charter school that knowingly fails to
359 comply with this paragraph shall terminate the charter under
360 subsection (8).

361 Section 5. Paragraphs (n) and (o) of subsection (1) and 362 subsection (3) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, are 363 amended, and paragraph (r) is added to subsection (1) of that 364 section, to read:

365 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program 366 accountability and oversight.-

367 (1)PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-A private 368 school participating in an educational scholarship program 369 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as 370 defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in 371 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to 372 private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program 373 374 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private schools, and must: 375

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376 (n) Adopt policies establishing standards of ethical 377 conduct for educational support employees, instructional 378 personnel, and school administrators. The policies must require 379 all educational support employees, instructional personnel, and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete 380 381 training on the standards; establish the duty of educational 382 support employees, instructional personnel, and school 383 administrators to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged 384 misconduct by other educational support employees, instructional 385 personnel, and school administrators which affects the health, 386 safety, or welfare of a student; and include an explanation of 387 the liability protections provided under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. 388 A private school, or any of its employees, may not enter into a 389 confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed 390 educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 391 school administrators, or employees, personnel, or 392 administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole 393 or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or 394 welfare of a student, and may not provide the employees, 395 instructional personnel, or school administrators with 396 employment references or discuss the employees', personnel's, or 397 administrators' performance with prospective employers in another educational setting, without disclosing the employees', 398 personnel's, or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an 399 400 agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of

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401 concealing misconduct by <u>educational support employees</u>, 402 instructional personnel, or school administrators which affects 403 the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary 404 to public policy, and may not be enforced.

405 Before employing a person instructional personnel or (0)406 school administrators in any position that requires direct 407 contact with students, conduct employment history checks of each of the personnel's or administrators' previous employers, screen 408 409 the person personnel or administrators through use of the 410 educator screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and 411 document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, 412 the private school must document efforts to contact the 413 employer. The private school may not employ a person whose 414 educator certificate is revoked, who is barred from reapplying 415 for an educator certificate, or who is on the disqualification 416 list maintained by the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). 417 (r) Prohibit education support employees, instructional 418 personnel, and school administrators from employment in any 419 position that requires direct contact with students if the 420 personnel or administrators are ineligible for such employment 421 pursuant to this section or s. 1012.315, or have been terminated 422 or resigned in lieu of termination for sexual misconduct with a 423 student. If the prohibited conduct occurs subsequent to 424 employment, the private school must report the person and the 425 disqualifying circumstances to the department for inclusion on

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## 426 the disqualification list maintained pursuant to s. 427 1001.10(4)(b).

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429 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private 430 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and 431 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship 432 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a 433 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection 434 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the 435 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may 436 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate 437 in a scholarship program.

438 (3) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-439 The Commissioner of Education:

440 Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's (a) 441 participation in a scholarship program if it is determined that 442 the private school has failed to comply with this section or 443 exhibits a previous pattern of failure to comply. However, if 444 the noncompliance is correctable within a reasonable amount of 445 time, not to exceed 45 days, and if the health, safety, or 446 welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may 447 issue a notice of noncompliance which provides the private school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of 448 compliance before taking action to suspend or revoke the private 449 450 school's participation in the scholarship program.

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451 May deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's (b) 452 participation in a scholarship program if the commissioner 453 determines that an owner or operator of the private school is 454 operating or has operated an educational institution in this 455 state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary 456 to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or if the owner 457 or operator has exhibited a previous pattern of failure to 458 comply with this section or specific requirements identified 459 within respective scholarship program laws. For purposes of this subsection, the term "owner or operator" has the same meaning as 460 461 provided in paragraph (1)(p).

462 (c) May permanently deny or revoke the authority of an 463 owner or operator to establish or operate a private school in 464 the state if the commissioner decides that the owner or operator 465 is operating or has operated an educational institution in the 466 state or another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary to 467 the health, safety, or welfare of the public, and shall include 468 such individuals on the disqualification list maintained by the 469 department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b).

470 <u>(d)1.(c)1.</u> In making such a determination, may consider 471 factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or omissions 472 by an owner or operator which led to a previous denial, 473 suspension, or revocation of participation in a state or federal 474 education scholarship program; an owner's or operator's failure 475 to reimburse the department or scholarship-funding organization

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476 for scholarship funds improperly received or retained by a school; the imposition of a prior criminal sanction related to 477 478 an owner's or operator's management or operation of an 479 educational institution; the imposition of a civil fine or 480 administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or 481 program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation 482 related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of 483 an educational institution; or other types of criminal 484 proceedings in which an owner or operator was found guilty of, 485 regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere 486 or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, 487 or moral turpitude.

488 2. The commissioner's determination is subject to the 489 following:

490 If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke a. 491 a private school's participation in the scholarship program, the 492 department shall notify the private school of such proposed 493 action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to the 494 private school's address of record with the department. The notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action 495 496 and notice of the timelines and procedures set forth in this 497 paragraph.

498 b. The private school that is adversely affected by the 499 proposed action shall have 15 days after receipt of the notice 500 of proposed action to file with the department's agency clerk a

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501 request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If 502 the private school is entitled to a hearing under s. 120.57(1), 503 the department shall forward the request to the Division of 504 Administrative Hearings.

505 Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this с. 506 subparagraph, the director of the Division of Administrative 507 Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative 508 law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter 509 a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within 510 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is 511 512 later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit 513 written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall 514 be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a 515 recommended order. The provisions of this sub-subparagraph may be waived upon stipulation by all parties. 516

517 <u>(e) (d)</u> May immediately suspend payment of scholarship 518 funds if it is determined that there is probable cause to 519 believe that there is:

520 1. An imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of 521 the students;

522 2. A previous pattern of failure to comply with this 523 section; or

524 3. Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school. 525 Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent

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526 activity pursuant to this section, the department's Office of 527 Inspector General is authorized to release personally 528 identifiable records or reports of students to the following 529 persons or organizations:

a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an
order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with
a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family
Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

534 b. A person or entity authorized by a court of competent 535 jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the 536 attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, 537 consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 538 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

539 c. Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for 540 law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency 541 has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena 542 or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be 543 disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and 544 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.

The commissioner's order suspending payment pursuant to this paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in subparagraph (d)2  $\frac{(c)2}{(c)2}$ .

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Section 6. Subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection

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551 (4) of section 1006.061, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 552 1006.061 Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect policy.-553 Each district school board, charter school, and private school 554 that accepts scholarship students who participate in a state 555 scholarship program under chapter 1002 shall: 556 (2) Post in a prominent place at each school site and on each school's Internet website, if available, the policies and 557 558 procedures for reporting alleged misconduct by educational 559 support employees, instructional personnel, or school 560 administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 561 student; the contact person to whom the report is made; and the penalties imposed on educational support employees, 562 563 instructional personnel, or school administrators who fail to 564 report suspected or actual child abuse or alleged misconduct by 565 other educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 566 school administrators. 567 (4) (a) Post in a prominent place in a clearly visible location and public area of the school which is readily 568 569 accessible to and widely used by students a sign in English and 570 Spanish that contains: 571 The statewide toll-free telephone number of the central 1. abuse hotline as provided in chapter 39.+ 572 Instructions to call 911 for emergencies.; and 573 2. 574 Directions for accessing the Department of Children and 3. 575 Families Internet website for more information on reporting Page 23 of 42

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abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

577 <u>4. Directions for accessing the Department of Education's</u>
578 website for more information on reporting acts that violate s.
579 <u>800.101.</u>

580

581 The Department of Education shall develop, and publish on the 582 department's Internet website, sample notices suitable for 583 posting in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (4).

584 Section 7. Subsection (6) of section 1012.27, Florida 585 Statutes, is amended to read:

586 1012.27 Public school personnel; powers and duties of 587 district school superintendent.—The district school 588 superintendent is responsible for directing the work of the 589 personnel, subject to the requirements of this chapter, and in 590 addition the district school superintendent shall perform the 591 following:

592 (6) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY CHECKS.-Before employing a person 593 in any position that requires direct contact with students, 594 conduct employment history checks of each of the person's 595 previous employers, review each affidavit of separation from 596 previous employers pursuant to s. 1012.31, screen instructional 597 personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, through use of the educator screening tools described in s. 598 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a 599 600 previous employer, the district school superintendent shall

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601 document efforts to contact the employer.

602 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 603 1012.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

604 1012.31 Personnel files.-Public school system employee 605 personnel files shall be maintained according to the following 606 provisions:

607 (2) (a) Materials relating to work performance, discipline, 608 suspension, or dismissal must be reduced to writing and signed by a person competent to know the facts or make the judgment. In 609 610 cases of separation due to termination or resignation in lieu of 611 termination, the person shall execute and maintain an affidavit 612 of separation, on the form adopted by the Department of 613 Education, setting forth in detail the facts and reasons for 614 such separation. The affidavit must expressly disclose when 615 separation is due to a report of sexual misconduct with a 616 student. The affidavit of separation must be executed under oath 617 and constitutes an official statement within the purview of s. 837.06. The affidavit of separation must include conspicuous 618 619 language that intentional false execution of the affidavit 620 constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree The resignation 621 or termination of an employee before an investigation of alleged 622 misconduct by the employee affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student is concluded must be clearly indicated in 623 624 the employee's personnel file. Section 9. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended 625

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626	to read:
627	1012.315 Screening standards Disqualification from
628	employmentA person is ineligible for educator certification or
629	employment in any position that requires direct contact with
630	students in a district school system, charter school, or $\underline{a}$
631	private school that <u>participates</u> accepts scholarship students
632	who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter
633	1002 if the person <u>is on the disqualification list maintained by</u>
634	the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b), is registered as a
635	<pre>sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C), or has</pre>
636	been convicted of:
637	(1) Any felony offense prohibited under any of the
638	following statutes:
639	(a) Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with
640	certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such
641	sexual misconduct.
642	(b) Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with
643	certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual
644	misconduct.
645	(c) Section 415.111, relating to adult abuse, neglect, or
646	exploitation of aged persons or disabled adults.
647	(d) Section 782.04, relating to murder.
648	(e) Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated
649	manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated
650	manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an
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651 officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a 652 paramedic. 653 (f) Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault. 654 Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery. (q) 655 (h) Section 784.075, relating to battery on a detention or 656 commitment facility staff member or a juvenile probation 657 officer. 658 (i) Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping. Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment. 659 (j) 660 (k) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a 661 child. 662 (1) Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking, 663 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or 664 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending 665 custody proceedings. 666 Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking, (m) 667 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending 668 669 dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse 670 or neglect of a minor. 671 Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or (n) 672 weapons at a school-sponsored event, on school property, or within 1,000 feet of a school. 673 674 Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an  $(\circ)$ 675 electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon

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676 at a school-sponsored event or on school property. 677 Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery. (p) 678 Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or (q) 679 solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial 680 authority. 681 Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity (r) 682 with certain minors. Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation. 683 (s) 684 (t) Chapter 796, relating to prostitution. 685 (u) Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent 686 exposure. 687 (V) Section 800.101, relating to offenses against students by authority figures. 688 Section 806.01, relating to arson. 689 (w) 690 Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism. (X) 691 Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism. (y) 692 (z) Section 812.014(6), relating to coordinating the commission of theft in excess of \$3,000. 693 694 (aa) Section 812.0145, relating to theft from persons 65 695 years of age or older. 696 (bb) Section 812.019, relating to dealing in stolen 697 property. Section 812.13, relating to robbery. 698 (CC) 699 Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden (dd) 700 snatching.

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701 Section 812.133, relating to carjacking. (ee) 702 Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery. (ff) 703 Section 817.563, relating to fraudulent sale of (dd) 704 controlled substances. 705 (hh) Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse, 706 or neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult. (ii) Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an 707 708 elderly person or disabled adult. 709 Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious (jj) 710 offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person 711 or disabled person. 712 (kk) Section 826.04, relating to incest. 713 Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated (ll)714 child abuse, or neglect of a child. 715 Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the (mm) 716 delinquency or dependency of a child. 717 (nn) Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a child. 718 719 (00)Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with 720 violence. 721 Chapter 847, relating to obscenity. (pp) 722 Section 874.05, relating to causing, encouraging, (dd) soliciting, or recruiting another to join a criminal street 723 724 gang. 725 Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and (rr) Page 29 of 42

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726 control, if the offense was a felony of the second degree or 727 greater severity. 728 (ss) Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with 729 certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual 730 misconduct. 731 (tt) Section 944.47, relating to introduction, removal, or 732 possession of contraband at a correctional facility. Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in 733 (uu) 734 juvenile justice programs. 735 (vv) Section 985.711, relating to introduction, removal, 736 or possession of contraband at a juvenile detention facility or 737 commitment program. 738 Any misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the (2) 739 following statutes: 740 Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of (a) 741 the offense was a minor. 742 (b) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a 743 child. 744 (3) Any criminal act committed in another state or under 745 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an offense prohibited under any statute listed in subsection (1) or 746 747 subsection (2). Any delinquent act committed in this state or any 748 (4)749 delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under 750 federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an

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751 individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender 752 List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.

753 Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 1012.795, Florida754 Statutes, is amended to read:

755 1012.795 Education Practices Commission; authority to 756 discipline.-

757 (1)The Education Practices Commission may suspend the 758 educator certificate of any instructional personnel or school 759 administrator, as defined in s. 1012.01(2) or (3), for up to 5 760 years, thereby denying that person the right to teach or 761 otherwise be employed by a district school board or public 762 school in any capacity requiring direct contact with students 763 for that period of time, after which the person may return to 764 teaching as provided in subsection (4); may revoke the educator 765 certificate of any person, thereby denying that person the right 766 to teach or otherwise be employed by a district school board or 767 public school in any capacity requiring direct contact with 768 students for up to 10 years, with reinstatement subject to 769 subsection (4); may permanently revoke the educator certificate 770 of any person thereby denying that person the right to teach or otherwise be employed by a district school board or public 771 772 school in any capacity requiring direct contact with students; may suspend a person's educator certificate, upon an order of 773 774 the court or notice by the Department of Revenue relating to the 775 payment of child support; may direct the department to place a

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776 certificateholder employed by a public school, charter school, 777 charter school governing board, or private school that 778 participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 779 on the disqualification list maintained by the department 780 pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b) for misconduct that would render 781 the person ineligible pursuant to s. 1012.315 or sexual 782 misconduct with a student; or may impose any other penalty 783 provided by law, if the person: 784 Obtained or attempted to obtain an educator (a) 785 certificate by fraudulent means. 786 Knowingly failed to report actual or suspected child (b) 787 abuse as required in s. 1006.061 or report alleged misconduct by 788 instructional personnel or school administrators which affects 789 the health, safety, or welfare of a student as required in s. 790 1012.796. 791 Has proved to be incompetent to teach or to perform (C) 792 duties as an employee of the public school system or to teach in 793 or to operate a private school. 794 Has been guilty of gross immorality or an act (d) 795 involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board 796 of Education, including engaging in or soliciting sexual, 797 romantic, or lewd conduct with a student or minor. Has had an educator certificate or other professional 798 (e) 799 license sanctioned by this or any other state or has had the 800 authority to practice the regulated profession revoked,

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801 suspended, or otherwise acted against, including a denial of 802 certification or licensure, by the licensing or certifying 803 authority of any jurisdiction, including its agencies and 804 subdivisions. The licensing or certifying authority's acceptance 805 of a relinquishment, stipulation, consent order, or other 806 settlement offered in response to or in anticipation of the 807 filing of charges against the licensee or certificateholder 808 shall be construed as action against the license or certificate. 809 For purposes of this section, a sanction or action against a 810 professional license, a certificate, or an authority to practice a regulated profession must relate to being an educator or the 811 812 fitness of or ability to be an educator.

(f) Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to a misdemeanor, felony, or any other criminal charge, other than a minor traffic violation.

(g) Upon investigation, has been found guilty of personal conduct that seriously reduces that person's effectiveness as an employee of the district school board.

(h) Has breached a contract, as provided in s. 1012.33(2)
or s. 1012.335.

(i) Has been the subject of a court order or notice by the
Department of Revenue pursuant to s. 409.2598 directing the
Education Practices Commission to suspend the certificate as a
result of noncompliance with a child support order, a subpoena,

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an order to show cause, or a written agreement with theDepartment of Revenue.

(j) Has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct
for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of
Education rules.

(k) Has otherwise violated the provisions of law, thepenalty for which is the revocation of the educator certificate.

833 (1) Has violated any order of the Education Practices 834 Commission.

835 (m) Has been the subject of a court order or plea 836 agreement in any jurisdiction which requires the 837 certificateholder to surrender or otherwise relinquish his or 838 her educator's certificate. A surrender or relinquishment shall 839 be for permanent revocation of the certificate. A person may not 840 surrender or otherwise relinquish his or her certificate prior 841 to a finding of probable cause by the commissioner as provided 842 in s. 1012.796.

843 (n) Has been disqualified from educator certification844 under s. 1012.315.

(o) Has committed a third recruiting offense as determined
by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) pursuant
to s. 1006.20(2)(b).

(p) Has violated test security as provided in s. 1008.24.
Section 11. Paragraphs (a), (b), (d), and (e) of
subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 1012.796, Florida

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851 Statutes, are amended, paragraph (i) is added to subsection (7), 852 and subsection (10) is added to that section, to read:

853 1012.796 Complaints against teachers and administrators; 854 procedure; penalties.-

855 (1) (a) The Department of Education shall cause to be 856 investigated expeditiously any complaint filed before it or 857 otherwise called to its attention which, if legally sufficient, 858 contains grounds for the revocation or suspension of a 859 certificate or any other appropriate penalty as set forth in subsection (7). The complaint is legally sufficient if it 860 861 contains the ultimate facts which show a violation has occurred 862 as provided in s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State 863 Board of Education. The department shall investigate or continue 864 to investigate and take appropriate action on a complaint even 865 though the original complainant withdraws the complaint or 866 otherwise indicates a desire not to cause it to be investigated 867 or prosecuted to completion. The department may investigate or 868 continue to investigate and take action on a complaint filed 869 against a person whose educator certificate has expired if the 870 act or acts that are the basis for the complaint were allegedly 871 committed while that person possessed an educator certificate 872 and may not issue a certificate to such a person unless an investigation has been completed. 873

874

The department shall immediately investigate any (b) legally sufficient complaint that involves misconduct by any 875

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876 certificated personnel which affects the health, safety, or 877 welfare of a student, giving the complaint priority over other 878 pending complaints. The department must investigate or continue 879 to investigate and take action on such a complaint filed against 880 a person whose educator certificate has expired if the act or 881 acts that are the basis for the complaint were allegedly 882 committed while that person possessed an educator certificate. 883 The Commissioner of Education shall make a determination of 884 probable cause within 90 days after receipt of any complaint 885 involving sexual misconduct with a student. Upon the written 886 request of a state attorney, this deadline may be held in abeyance during criminal proceedings related to the sexual 887 888 misconduct with a student.

889 (d)1. Each school district shall file in writing with the 890 department all legally sufficient complaints within 30 days 891 after the date on which subject matter of the complaint comes to 892 the attention of the school district, regardless of whether the 893 subject of the complaint is still an employee of the school 894 district. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains 895 ultimate facts that show a violation has occurred as provided in 896 s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. 897 The school district shall include all information relating to 898 the complaint which is known to the school district at the time 899 of filing.

900

2. A school district shall immediately notify the

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901 department if the subject of a legally sufficient complaint of 902 misconduct affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student 903 resigns or is terminated before the conclusion of the school 904 district's investigation. Upon receipt of the notification, the 905 department shall place an alert on the person's certification 906 file indicating that he or she resigned or was terminated before 907 an investigation involving allegations of misconduct affecting 908 the health, safety, or welfare of a student was concluded. In 909 such circumstances, the database may not include specific 910 information relating to the alleged misconduct until permitted 911 by subsection (4). This subparagraph does not limit or restrict 912 the duty of the district school board to investigate the 913 complaint and report the findings and conclusion to the 914 department.

915 Each district school board shall develop and adopt 3. 916 policies and procedures to comply with this reporting 917 requirement. School board policies and procedures must include 918 standards for screening, hiring, and terminating instructional 919 personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01; 920 standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and 921 school administrators; the duties of instructional personnel and 922 school administrators for upholding the standards; detailed procedures for reporting alleged misconduct by instructional 923 924 personnel and school administrators which affects the health, 925 safety, or welfare of a student; requirements for the

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926 reassignment of instructional personnel and or school 927 administrators pending the outcome of a misconduct 928 investigation; and penalties for failing to comply with s. 929 1001.51 or s. 1012.795. The district school board policies and 930 procedures must shall include appropriate penalties for all 931 personnel of the district school board for nonreporting and 932 procedures for promptly informing the district school 933 superintendent of each legally sufficient complaint. The 934 district school superintendent is charged with knowledge of 935 these policies and procedures and is accountable for the 936 training of all instructional personnel and school 937 administrators of the school district on the standards of 938 ethical conduct, policies, and procedures.

939 4. If the district school superintendent has knowledge of 940 a legally sufficient complaint and does not report the 941 complaint, or fails to enforce the policies and procedures of 942 the district school board, and fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection, in addition to other actions 943 944 against certificateholders authorized by law, the district 945 school superintendent is subject to penalties as specified in s. 946 1001.51(12).

947 5. If the superintendent determines that misconduct by 948 instructional personnel or school administrators who hold an 949 educator certificate affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 950 student and the misconduct warrants termination, the

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951 instructional personnel or school administrators may resign or 952 be terminated, and the superintendent must report the misconduct 953 to the department in the format prescribed by the department. 954 The department shall maintain each report of misconduct as a 955 public record in the instructional personnel's or school 956 administrators' certification files. This paragraph does not 957 limit or restrict the power and duty of the department to 958 investigate complaints regarding certificateholders, regardless 959 of the school district's untimely filing, or failure to file, 960 complaints and followup reports. This subparagraph does not create a duty for the department to investigate complaints 961 962 regarding noncertificateholders.

963 If allegations arise against an employee who is (e) 964 certified under s. 1012.56 and employed in an educator-965 certificated position in any public school, charter school or 966 governing board thereof, or private school that accepts 967 scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship 968 program under chapter 1002, the school shall file in writing 969 with the department a legally sufficient complaint within 30 970 days after the date on which the subject matter of the complaint 971 came to the attention of the school, regardless of whether the 972 subject of the allegations is still an employee of the school. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts 973 974 that show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.795 975 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. The school

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976 shall include all known information relating to the complaint 977 with the filing of the complaint. This paragraph does not limit 978 or restrict the power and duty of the department to investigate 979 complaints, regardless of the school's untimely filing, or 980 failure to file, complaints and followup reports. A school 981 described in this paragraph shall immediately notify the 982 department if the subject of a legally sufficient complaint of 983 misconduct affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student resigns or is terminated before the conclusion of the school's 984 investigation. Upon receipt of the notification, the department 985 986 shall place an alert on the person's certification file 987 indicating that he or she resigned or was terminated before an 988 investigation involving allegations of misconduct affecting the 989 health, safety, or welfare of a student was concluded and place 990 the person on the disqualification list maintained by the 991 department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). In such circumstances, 992 the database may not include specific information relating to 993 the alleged misconduct until permitted by subsection (4). 994 (5) When an allegation of misconduct by instructional

995 personnel or school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, is 996 received, if the alleged misconduct affects the health, safety, 997 or welfare of a student, the district school superintendent in 998 consultation with the school principal, or upon the request of 999 the Commissioner of Education, must, at a minimum, immediately 1000 suspend the instructional personnel or school administrators

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1001 from regularly assigned duties, with pay, and remove reassign 1002 the suspended personnel or administrators from to positions that 1003 may do not require direct contact with students in the district 1004 school system. Such suspension shall continue until submission of a legally sufficient complaint. The proceedings and 1005 1006 determination of sanctions shall be completed by a school 1007 district within 1 year after submission of the legally 1008 sufficient complaint the completion of the proceedings and the 1009 determination of sanctions, if any, pursuant to this section and s. 1012.795. 1010 (7) A panel of the commission shall enter a final order 1011 1012 either dismissing the complaint or imposing one or more of the 1013 following penalties: 1014 (i) Direct the department to place instructional personnel 1015 or school administrators on the disqualification list maintained 1016 by the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b) for conduct that 1017 would render the person ineligible pursuant to s. 1012.315 or 1018 sexual misconduct with a student. 1019 1020 The penalties imposed under this subsection are in addition to, 1021 and not in lieu of, the penalties required for a third 1022 recruiting offense pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(b). 1023 (10) A person on the disqualification list maintained by the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b) shall be notified 1024 1025 that he or she may not serve or apply to serve as an employee or

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1026 contracted personnel at a public school or private school that 1027 participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002. 1028 A person who knowingly violates this provision commits a felony 1029 of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 1030 775.083. 1031 Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 1012.797, Florida 1032 Statutes, is amended to read: 1033 1012.797 Notification by law enforcement of district 1034 school superintendent of certain charges against or convictions 1035 of employees.-1036 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(7) or any (1)1037 other provision of law to the contrary, a law enforcement agency 1038 shall, within 48 hours, notify the appropriate district school 1039 superintendent, charter school governing board, or private 1040 school owner or administrator, as applicable, of the name and address of any employee of the school district, charter school, 1041 1042 or private school, as applicable, who is charged with a felony 1043 or with a misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or 1044 the sale or possession of a controlled substance. The 1045 notification shall include the specific charge for which the 1046 employee of the school district was arrested. Such notification shall include other education providers such as the Florida 1047 School for the Deaf and the Blind, university lab schools, and 1048 private elementary and secondary schools. 1049 1050 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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