

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to school district personnel and
3 volunteers; amending s. 435.12, F.S.; authorizing
4 certain volunteers to undergo a specified background
5 screening at the discretion of specified entities;
6 amending s. 1012.22, F.S.; requiring district school
7 boards to adopt a policy to temporarily remove
8 instructional personnel from the classroom under
9 certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.797, F.S.;
10 revising the offenses committed by certain educational
11 employees that law enforcement must report to
12 specified educational entities; amending s. 1012.799,
13 F.S.; requiring instructional personnel and
14 administrative personnel to self-report certain
15 arrests and final judgments within a specified time
16 period; providing an effective date.

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18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20 **Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of**
21 **section 435.12, Florida Statutes, to read:**

22 435.12 Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse.—
23 (3)

24 (c) An individual who volunteers for an entity listed in
25 paragraph (a) may be screened at the discretion of the entity.

26 If the entity elects to conduct a background screening, the
27 screening may be conducted pursuant to this section or s.
28 943.0542.

29 **Section 2. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1) of**
30 **section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, to read:**

31 1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the
32 district school board.—The district school board shall:

33 (1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe
34 qualifications for those positions, and provide for the
35 appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and dismissal
36 of employees as follows, subject to the requirements of this
37 chapter:

38 (j) Temporary removal from the classroom.—The district
39 school board shall adopt a policy to temporarily remove
40 instructional personnel from the classroom within 24 hours after
41 notification by law enforcement or the instructional personnel
42 of any arrest for a felony or for a misdemeanor involving any
43 offense listed in s. 435.04(2).

44 **Section 3. Section 1012.797, Florida Statutes, is amended**
45 **to read:**

46 1012.797 Notification of certain charges against
47 employees.—Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(7) or any
48 other law to the contrary, a law enforcement agency shall,
49 within 48 hours, notify the appropriate district school
50 superintendent, charter school governing board, private school

owner or administrator, president of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, or university lab schools director or principal, as applicable, when its employee is arrested for a felony, or a misdemeanor involving any offense listed in s. 435.04(2) ~~the abuse of a minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance~~. The notification shall include the specific charge for which the employee of the school district was arrested. Notwithstanding ss. 1012.31(3)(a)1. and 1012.796(4), within 24 hours after such notification, the school principal or designee shall notify parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with the employee and include, at a minimum, the name and specific charges against the employee.

Section 4. Section 1012.799, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.799 Reporting certain offenses.—

(1) Instructional personnel or administrative personnel having knowledge that a sexual battery has been committed by a student upon another student must report the offense to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the school plant or over the place where the sexual battery occurred if not on the grounds of the school plant.

(2) Instructional personnel or administrative personnel must self-report to a school district authority, as determined by the district school superintendent:

(a) Within 48 hours after any arrest for a felony or for a

76 misdemeanor involving any offense listed in s. 435.04(2). Such
77 notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt and such
78 notice shall not be admissible for any purpose in any civil,
79 criminal, administrative, judicial, investigatory, or
80 adjudicatory proceeding.

81 (b) Within 48 hours after a final judgment, any
82 conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication,
83 commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering a plea
84 of guilty or nolo contendere for any criminal offense other than
85 a traffic violation. When handling sealed and expunged records
86 disclosed pursuant to this paragraph, school district personnel
87 must comply with the confidentiality provisions in ss.
88 943.0585(4)(c) and 943.059(4)(c).

89 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.