

By Senator Osgood

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to disqualification from educator
3 certification and employment; amending s. 1012.315,
4 F.S.; prohibiting a person from being automatically
5 found ineligible for educator certification and
6 specified employment if certain offenses meet
7 specified criteria; providing an effective date.
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 Section 1. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended
12 to read:

13 1012.315 Screening standards.—A person is ineligible for
14 educator certification or employment in any position that
15 requires direct contact with students in a district school
16 system, a charter school, or a private school that participates
17 in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 if the person:

18 (1) Is on the disqualification list maintained by the
19 department under s. 1001.10(4)(b);

20 (2) Is registered as a sex offender as described in 42
21 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C);

22 (3) Is ineligible based on a security background
23 investigation under s. 435.04(2). Beginning January 1, 2025, or
24 a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care
25 Administration, the Agency for Health Care Administration shall
26 determine the eligibility of employees in any position that
27 requires direct contact with students in a district school
28 system, a charter school, or a private school that participates
29 in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002;

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30 (4) Would be ineligible for an exemption under s.
31 435.07(4)(c); or

32 (5) Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had
33 adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere
34 to:

35 (a) Any criminal act committed in another state or under
36 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes a
37 disqualifying offense under s. 435.04(2).

38 (b) Any delinquent act committed in this state or any
39 delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under
40 federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an
41 individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender
42 List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.

43
44 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a
45 person may not be automatically found ineligible for educator
46 certification or employment in any position that requires direct
47 contact with students if the disqualifying offense occurred at
48 least 20 years ago and the person pled no contest to, or had
49 adjudication withheld for, such offense.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.