

By the Committees on Rules; and Criminal Justice; and Senator  
Grall

595-03370-25

20251546c2

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to background screening of athletic  
coaches; amending s. 943.0438, F.S.; making a  
technical change; revising the date by which an  
independent sanctioning authority is required to  
conduct certain background screenings of athletic  
coaches; providing that an independent sanctioning  
authority shall be considered a qualified entity for  
the purpose of participating in the Care Provider  
Background Screening Clearinghouse no later than a  
specified date; prohibiting an independent sanctioning  
authority from allowing certain persons to act as  
athletic coaches beginning on a specified date;  
authorizing a person who has not undergone certain  
background screening to act as an athletic coach if he  
or she is under the direct supervision of an athletic  
coach who meets certain background screening  
requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraphs  
(a) and (b) of subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida  
Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) is added to that  
section, to read:

943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning  
authorities.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Athletic coach" means a person who:

595-03370-25

20251546c2

1. Is authorized by an independent sanctioning authority to work as a coach, an assistant coach, a manager, or a referee, whether for compensation or as a volunteer, for a youth athletic team based in this state; and

2. Has direct contact with one or more minors on the youth athletic team.

(2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

(a) No later than July 1, 2026:

1. ~~Effective January 1, 2025,~~ Conduct a level 2 background screening under s. 435.04 of each current and prospective athletic coach. The authority may not delegate this responsibility to an individual team and may not authorize any person to act as an athletic coach unless a level 2 background screening is conducted and does not result in disqualification under subparagraph 3 ~~paragraph (b)~~.

2.~~(b)1.~~ Be considered a ~~Before January 1, 2026, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration for the participation of~~ qualified entity for purposes of participating entities in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse under s. 435.12, ~~disqualify any person from acting as an athletic coach as provided in s. 435.04. The authority may allow a person disqualified under this subparagraph to act as an athletic coach if it determines that the person meets the requirements for an exemption from disqualification under s. 435.07.~~

3.2. ~~On or after January 1, 2026, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration,~~ Not allow a ~~any~~ person to act as an athletic coach if he or she does not pass the background screening qualifications in s. 435.04.

595-03370-25

20251546c2

59 The authority may allow a person disqualified under this  
60 subparagraph to act as an athletic coach if the person has  
61 successfully completed the exemption from the disqualification  
62 process under s. 435.07.

63 (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(a), a person who has not  
64 undergone background screening pursuant to this section may act  
65 as an athletic coach if he or she is under the direct  
66 supervision of an athletic coach who meets the background  
67 screening requirements of this section.

68 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.