

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;

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.