

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senator Polsky

586-03173A-25

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public education of background screening requirements; amending s. 435.12, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation with certain agencies, to develop and maintain a care provider background screening education and awareness webpage; providing requirements for resources provided on the webpage; requiring that specified agencies provide a link to the webpage on their respective websites and promote the inclusion of the link in certain media; requiring that the webpage be active by a specified date and updated annually; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 435.12, Florida Statutes, to read:

435.12 Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse.—

(4) (a) As part of the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse, the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with all specified agencies that are required by law to use the clearinghouse for employment screening, must develop and maintain a publicly available webpage which provides a central source for care provider background screening education and awareness. This webpage may be part of the current web-based clearinghouse system. The resources available on the webpage must be written in nontechnical and accessible language,

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tailored to qualified entities as defined in s. 943.0542(1)(b) and include, but need not be limited to:

1. Information and education related to employment screening requirements of qualified entities, to include:

a. The Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse.

b. Level 2 screening standards under chapter 435.

c. Live-scan fingerprinting, or other third-party systems, including information on process, vendors, locations, and potential costs.

2. A searchable catalog, by specified agency, of qualified entity employment classes and positions required by law to undergo employment screening through the clearinghouse, to include:

a. Disqualifying offenses.

b. Exemption requirements and process.

3. A downloadable checklist detailing the process, timelines, and contact information for employment screening process support, tailored to qualified entities.

(b) Specified agencies must include a clear and conspicuous link to the webpage on their respective websites and promote the inclusion of the link in all job vacancy advertisements and posts by qualified entities.

(c) The webpage must be active by January 1, 2026, and reviewed and updated by October 1, 2026, and each subsequent year to incorporate any changes to law, the clearinghouse, or the employment screening process.

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