~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE AMENDEMENT AMENDED AND ADOPTED

March 30, 2010

**S. 953**

Introduced by Senator Jackson

S. Printed 3/30/10--S.

Read the first time January 12, 2010.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑19‑117 SO AS TO REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL HIRED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SERVE IN ANY CAPACITY IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL WHICH REQUIRES DIRECT INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS TO UNDERGO A CRIMINAL RECORD SEARCH, TO REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP A WRITTEN POLICY ON THE CRIMINAL RECORD SEARCH, TO PROVIDE WHAT THE POLICY MUST INCLUDE, AND TO REQUIRE THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO APPROPRIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND SECTION 23‑3‑115, RELATING TO FEES FOR CRIMINAL RECORD SEARCHES, SO AS TO FIX THE FEE AT EIGHT DOLLARS FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑19‑117. (A) An individual hired by a local school district board of trustees to serve in any capacity in a public school in this State shall undergo a name‑based South Carolina criminal record search conducted by the local school district using records maintained by the State Law Enforcement Division pursuant to regulations contained in subarticle 1, Article 3, Chapter 73 of the Code of Regulations. By August 1, 2010, a school district board of trustees shall adopt a written policy that specifies the required criminal record search as well as how the information received from the search impacts hiring decisions. The district policy must stipulate whether the district assumes the cost of the criminal record search or that the applicant assumes the cost. The policy must include, at a minimum, a prohibition of hiring individuals convicted of violent crimes as defined in Section 16‑1‑60 and hiring recommendations relative to felony convictions and relevant just‑cause examples provided in Section 59‑25‑160. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, working with the Department of Education, shall provide training to appropriate school district personnel regarding appropriate use of the information provided in criminal record searches.

(B) Each school district of this State shall perform a National Sex Offender Registry check on all district employees hired to serve in any capacity in a public school and all volunteers who work in a school on an interim or regular basis as mentors, coaches, or any other capacity, or volunteers who serve as student chaperones or any other capacity having direct interaction with students. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, working with the Department of Education, shall provide training to appropriate district personnel on the appropriate uses of the database. By August 1, 2010, the district board of trustees shall adopt a written policy that specifies the sex offender registry check as well as how information received from the search impacts hiring decisions. The policy must include, at a minimum, a prohibition of hiring individuals required to register as sex offenders pursuant to Section 23‑3‑430.”

SECTION 2. Section 23‑3‑115 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 353 of 2008, is further amended by adding:

“(C) The fee allowed in subsection (A) is waived if the criminal record search is conducted on a substitute teacher on behalf of a school district.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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