**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 12‑2‑140 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE STATE AGENCIES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THAT HAVE ACCESS TO FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION TO CONDUCT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ITS EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 12‑2‑140. (A) Each state agency and each political subdivision of the State, is authorized, as necessary to comply with Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075, including amendments thereto and publications replacing Publication 1075, to obtain state and national criminal history background checks and investigations performed by the State Law Enforcement Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on all employees and contractors with access to federal tax information. The State Law Enforcement Division is authorized to conduct fingerprint‑based state and national background checks for state agencies, state institutions, and political subdivisions of the State which have access to federal tax information in order to comply with Publication 1075.

(B) An employee or contractor of a state agency or a political subdivision of the State with access to or that uses federal tax information must:

(1) agree to a national background check and the release of all investigative records to the applicable state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of verifying criminal history information for noncriminal justice purposes; and

(2) supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a state criminal history background check and investigation to be conducted by the State Law Enforcement Division, and then submit to a national criminal history background check to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(C) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a state agency or political subdivision shall pay any costs incurred to conduct background checks and investigations requested by the state agency or political subdivision. The state agency or political subdivision may require a person or entity contracting with the agency or political subdivision to pay the costs associated with the background investigations for all employees of the contractor. The requirement may be a condition of the contract with the state agency or political subdivision.

(D) Each state agency or political subdivision required to conduct background checks and investigations pursuant to this section shall establish written policies concerning the implementation and use of the background checks and investigations conducted pursuant to this section.

(E) For purposes of this section, ‘state agency’ includes state departments and state institutions.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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