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HOUSE BILL NO. 521

Offered January 20, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-296.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to criminal records checks of certain school boards' employees.

Patrons—Armstrong and Day; Senator: Reynolds

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-296.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 22.1-296.2. Fingerprinting required.

A. As a condition of employment, the school boards of the Counties of Albemarle, Campbell, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Isle of Wight, Loudoun, Louisa, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, Orange, Pittsylvania, Prince William, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Westmoreland and the Cities of Alexandria, Bristol, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Danville, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Hopewell, Lynchburg, Manassas, *Martinsville*, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Radford, Richmond, Roanoke, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Waynesboro, and Winchester shall require any applicant who is offered or accepts employment after July 1, 1989, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, to submit to fingerprinting and to provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded along with the applicant's fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding such applicant; however, such applicant may be required to pay the cost of such fingerprinting or criminal records check at the discretion of the school board. From such funds as may be available for this purpose, the school board may pay for the fingerprinting or criminal records check.

The Central Criminal Records Exchange, upon receipt of an applicant's record or notification that no record exists, shall report to the school board whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony; a misdemeanor involving (i) sexual assault as established in Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, (ii) obscenity and related offenses as established in Article 5 (§ 18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, (iii) drugs as established in Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, (iv) moral turpitude, or (v) the physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child; or an equivalent offense in another state.

B. The division superintendent of any school division designated in subsection A of this section shall inform the relevant school board of any notification of arrest of a school board employee received pursuant to § 19.2-83.1. The school board shall require such employee, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, to submit to fingerprinting and to provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded along with the employee's fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding such employee; however, such employee may be required to pay the cost of such fingerprinting or criminal records check at the discretion of the school board. From such funds as may be available for this purpose, the school board may pay for the fingerprinting or criminal records check.

The Central Criminal Records Exchange, upon receipt of an employee's record or notification that no record exists, shall report to the school board whether or not the employee has been convicted of any of the offenses listed in subsection A of this section. The contents of the employee's record shall be used by the school board solely to implement the provisions of §§ 22.1-307 and 22.1-315.

C. The Central Criminal Records Exchange shall not disclose information to the school board regarding charges or convictions of any crimes not specified in this section. If an applicant is denied employment or a current employee is suspended or dismissed because of information appearing on his criminal history record, the school board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the applicant or employee. The information provided to the school board shall not be disseminated except as provided in this section.

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