



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5110

LCO No. 117

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Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Aging

Introduced by:
(AGE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR
EMPLOYEES OF HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCIES AND HOME
HEALTH AGENCIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-670 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 As used in sections 20-670 to 20-680, inclusive, as amended by this
4 act:

5 (1) "Certificate" means a certificate of registration issued under
6 section 20-672, as amended by this act.

7 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
8 Protection or any person designated by the commissioner to
9 administer and enforce the provisions of sections 20-670 to 20-680,
10 inclusive, as amended by this act.

11 (3) "Companion services" means nonmedical, basic supervision
12 services to ensure the well-being and safety of a person in such
13 person's home.

14 (4) "Employee" means any person employed by, or who enters into a
15 contract to perform services for, a homemaker-companion agency,
16 including, but not limited to, temporary employees, pool employees
17 and independent contractors.

18 (5) "Homemaker services" means nonmedical, supportive services
19 that ensure a safe and healthy environment for a person in such
20 person's home, such services to include assistance with personal
21 hygiene, cooking, household cleaning, laundry and other household
22 chores.

23 (6) "Homemaker-companion agency" means any public or private
24 organization, employing one or more persons that is engaged in the
25 business of providing companion services or homemaker services.
26 Homemaker-companion agency shall not include a home health care
27 agency, as defined in subsection (d) of section 19a-490, or a
28 homemaker-home health aide agency, as defined in subsection (e) of
29 section 19a-490.

30 (7) "Service plan" means a written document provided by a
31 homemaker-companion agency to a person utilizing services provided
32 by such agency, that specifies the anticipated scope, type, frequency
33 and duration of homemaker or companion services that are to be
34 provided by such agency for the benefit of the person.

35 (8) "Comprehensive background check" means a background
36 investigation performed by the homemaker-companion agency, that
37 includes, but is not limited to: (A) A review of the employment
38 application prepared by the agency and completed by the applicant;
39 (B) an in-person interview of the applicant; (C) verification of the
40 applicant's Social Security number; (D) if the position applied for
41 within the agency requires licensure on the part of the applicant,
42 verification that the required license is in good standing; (E) a check of
43 the registry established and maintained pursuant to section 54-257; (F)
44 a review of criminal conviction information obtained through a search
45 of current criminal matters of public record in this state based on the

46 applicant's name and date of birth; (G) if the applicant has resided in
47 this state less than three years prior to the date of the application for
48 employment, a review of criminal conviction information from the
49 state or states where such applicant resided during such three-year
50 period; and (H) a review of any other information that the agency
51 deems necessary in order to evaluate the suitability of the applicant for
52 the position.

53 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 20-672 of the 2010 supplement to the
54 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
55 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

56 (a) Any person seeking a certificate of registration as a homemaker-
57 companion agency shall apply to the Commissioner of Consumer
58 Protection, in writing, on a form provided by the commissioner. The
59 application shall include the applicant's name, residence address,
60 business address, business telephone number and such other
61 information as the commissioner may require. An applicant shall also
62 be required to submit to state and national criminal history records
63 checks in accordance with section 29-17a and to certify under oath to
64 the commissioner that: (1) Such agency complies with the
65 requirements of section 20-678 concerning employee comprehensive
66 background checks, (2) such agency provides all persons receiving
67 homemaker or companion services with a written individualized
68 contract or service plan that specifically identifies the anticipated
69 scope, type, frequency and duration of homemaker or companion
70 services provided by the agency to the person, (3) such agency
71 maintains a surety bond, and (4) all records maintained by such
72 agency shall be open, at all reasonable hours, for inspection, copying
73 or audit by the commissioner.

74 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 20-675 of the general statutes is
75 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
76 *October 1, 2010*):

77 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may revoke, suspend

78 or refuse to issue or renew any certificate of registration as a
79 homemaker-companion agency or place an agency on probation or
80 issue a letter of reprimand for: (1) Conduct by the agency, or by an
81 employee of the agency while in the course of employment, of a
82 character likely to mislead, deceive or defraud the public or the
83 commissioner; [or] (2) engaging in any untruthful or misleading
84 advertising; or (3) failing to perform a comprehensive background
85 check of an applicant for employment as required by section 20-678.

86 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) As used in this section,
87 "comprehensive background check" means a background investigation
88 performed by a home health agency, as defined in subsection (k) of
89 section 19a-490 of the general statutes, that includes, but is not limited
90 to: (1) A review of the employment application prepared by the agency
91 and completed by the applicant; (2) an in-person interview of the
92 applicant; (3) verification of the applicant's Social Security number; (4)
93 if the position applied for within the agency requires licensure on the
94 part of the applicant, verification that the required license is in good
95 standing; (5) a check of the registry established and maintained
96 pursuant to section 54-257 of the general statutes; (6) a review of
97 criminal conviction information obtained through a search of current
98 criminal matters of public record in this state based on the applicant's
99 name and date of birth; (7) if the applicant has resided in this state less
100 than three years prior to the date of the application for employment, a
101 review of criminal conviction information from the state or states
102 where such applicant resided during such three-year period; and (8) a
103 review of any other information that the agency deems necessary in
104 order to evaluate the suitability of the applicant for the position.

105 (b) Each home health agency shall require that any prospective
106 employee applying for employment with such agency on or after
107 October 1, 2010, submit to a comprehensive background check. In
108 addition, each home health agency shall require that any such
109 prospective employee complete and sign a form disclosing whether
110 such prospective employee was subject to any decision imposing

111 disciplinary action by a licensing agency in any state, the District of
112 Columbia, a United States possession or territory or a foreign
113 jurisdiction. Any such prospective employee who makes a false
114 statement regarding such prior disciplinary action shall be guilty of a
115 class A misdemeanor.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-670
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-672(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	20-675(a)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To enhance the background check requirements for employees of homemaker-companion agencies and home health agencies.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]