
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 459

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGIONAL PROCESSING AND RETENTION OF FINGERPRINT RECORDS.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes, rather than requires, regional educational service centers (RESCs) to perform a number of activities related to fingerprinting and background checks of current and potential employees of public or private schools. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, RESCs become involved with background checks at the request of local and regional boards of education, charter school governing councils, interdistrict magnet school operators, endowed academies that function as public high schools, state-approved special education facilities, or private schools.

The bill authorizes RESCs to:

1. conduct or arrange for fingerprinting, which may be done digitally;
2. retain for four years the state and national background check results, which may be in an electronic format, instead of retaining only the fingerprints and other positive identifying information, as under current law; and
3. provide the background check results to boards of education or other RESCs upon the applicant's or employee's request.

The bill requires RESCs to conduct background checks on their own employees and applicants, which the law already requires them to do for employees of magnet schools they operate.

RESCs must also follow the same background check requirements as boards of education when checking substitute teachers.

Finally, the bill requires the State Department of Education to share teacher certification and permit information with RESCs, as it must already do with boards of education and other education employers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/19/2018)