

STATE OF NEW YORK

4983

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 6, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL, WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to background checks and fingerprinting; and to amend the social services law, in relation to statewide central registry clearances by contracted service providers of student support services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 1125 of the education law, as
2 added by chapter 180 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

3 3. "Employee" shall mean any person receiving compensation from a
4 school district or employee of a contracted service provider, a
5 contracted service provider of student support services or worker placed
6 within the school under a public assistance employment program, pursuant
7 to title nine-B of article five of the social services law, and consist-
8 ent with the provisions of such title for the provision of services to
9 such district, its students or employees, directly or through contract,
10 whereby such services performed by such person involve direct student
11 contact.

12 § 2. Paragraph (a-2) of subdivision 3 of section 2854 of the education
13 law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (v) to read as follows:

14 (v) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the
15 board of trustees of a charter school shall not be required to oversee
16 the fingerprinting process for employees of a contracted service provid-
17 er of student support services such as, but not limited to, substitute
18 teachers, substitute teacher aides, substitute nurses, educational
19 consultants, tutors, substitute school administrative support and other
20 temporary student services professionals, so long as the have engaged a
21 contracted service provider of student support services who has complied
22 with the fingerprinting requirements elsewhere in this chapter.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 30 of section 305 of the education law, as amended by chapter 630 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioner, in cooperation with the division of criminal justice services and in accordance with all applicable provisions of law, shall promulgate rules and regulations to require the fingerprinting of prospective employees, as defined in section eleven hundred twenty-five of this chapter, of school districts, charter schools ~~[and],~~ boards of cooperative educational services and contracted service providers of student support services and authorizing the fingerprinting of prospective employees of nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools, and for the use of information derived from searches of the records of the division of criminal justice services and the federal bureau of investigation based on the use of such fingerprints. The commissioner shall also develop a form for use by school districts, charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services, contracted service providers of student support services, and nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools in connection with the submission of fingerprints that contains the specific job title sought and any other information that may be relevant to consideration of the applicant. The commissioner shall also create or expand the functionality of internet based systems to provide access to contracted service providers of student support services upon application of the contracted service provider of student support services to the commissioner to enable them to be able to review fingerprint results and subsequent arrest notifications based on the fingerprint and background check data by logging into a protected web portal, entering in the employee name and social security number, which would provide access to see the fingerprint results. The commissioner shall also establish a form for the recordation of allegations of child abuse in an educational setting, as required pursuant to section eleven hundred twenty-six of this chapter. No person who has been fingerprinted pursuant to section three thousand four-b of this chapter or pursuant to section five hundred nine-cc or twelve hundred twenty-nine-d of the vehicle and traffic law and whose fingerprints remain on file with the division of criminal justice services shall be required to undergo fingerprinting for purposes of a new criminal history record check. This subdivision and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto shall not apply to a school district within a city with a population of one million or more.

§ 4. The opening paragraph of paragraph (b) of subdivision 30 of section 305 of the education law, as amended by chapter 630 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

The commissioner, in cooperation with the division of criminal justice services, shall promulgate a form to be provided to all such prospective employees of school districts, charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services, contracted service providers of student support services and nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools that elect to fingerprint and seek clearance for prospective employees that shall:

§ 5. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 30 of section 305 of the education law, as amended by chapter 630 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The commissioner shall develop forms to be provided to all school districts, charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services, contracted service providers of student support services and to all nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools that elect to

1 fingerprint their prospective employees, to be completed and signed by
2 prospective employees when conditional appointment or emergency condi-
3 tional appointment is offered.

4 § 6. Subdivision 31 of section 305 of the education law, as added by
5 chapter 380 of the laws of 2001, is amended to read as follows:

6 31. The commissioner shall direct that each school district, charter
7 school, ~~[and]~~ private elementary and secondary school, and contracted
8 service provider of student support services appoint a designated educa-
9 tional official for the purposes set forth in section 380.90 of the
10 criminal procedure law, subdivision seventeen of section 301.2 and
11 subdivision three of section 380.1 of the family court act. In addition,
12 the commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations, in consultation
13 with the office of court administration, to facilitate electronic access
14 by the courts to the names and addresses of such designated educational
15 officials.

16 § 7. Subdivision 1 of section 3035 of the education law, as amended by
17 chapter 630 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

18 1. The commissioner shall submit to the division of criminal justice
19 services two sets of fingerprints of prospective employees as defined in
20 subdivision three of section eleven hundred twenty-five of this chapter
21 received from a school district, charter school or board of cooperative
22 educational services, contracted service providers of student support
23 services and of prospective employees received from nonpublic and
24 private elementary and secondary schools pursuant to title two of this
25 chapter, and the division of criminal justice services processing fee
26 imposed pursuant to subdivision eight-a of section eight hundred thir-
27 ty-seven of the executive law and any fee imposed by the federal bureau
28 of investigation. The division of criminal justice services and the
29 federal bureau of investigation shall forward such criminal history
30 record to the commissioner in a timely manner. For the purposes of this
31 section, the term "criminal history record" shall mean a record of all
32 convictions of crimes and any pending criminal charges maintained on an
33 individual by the division of criminal justice services and the federal
34 bureau of investigation. All such criminal history records sent to the
35 commissioner pursuant to this subdivision shall be confidential pursuant
36 to the applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations, and
37 shall not be published or in any way disclosed to persons other than the
38 commissioner, unless otherwise authorized by law.

39 § 8. Subdivision 3 of section 3035 of the education law, as amended by
40 section 7 of chapter 630 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as
41 follows:

42 3. (a) Clearance. (i) After receipt of a criminal history record from
43 the division of criminal justice services and the federal bureau of
44 investigation the commissioner shall promptly notify the appropriate
45 school district, charter school, board of cooperative educational
46 services, contracted service providers of student support services or
47 nonpublic or private elementary or secondary school whether the prospec-
48 tive employee to which such report relates is cleared for employment
49 based upon his or her criminal history. All determinations to grant or
50 deny clearance for employment pursuant to this paragraph shall be
51 performed in accordance with subdivision sixteen of section two hundred
52 ninety-six of the executive law and article twenty-three-A of the
53 correction law. When the commissioner denies a prospective employee
54 clearance for employment, such prospective employee shall be afforded
55 notice and the right to be heard and offer proof in opposition to such
56 determination in accordance with the regulations of the commissioner.

(ii) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, information regarding the results of the investigation of current or prospective employees of contracted service providers of student support services and subsequent changes in status related to such employees shall be transmitted via an internet-based system made available to contracted service providers of student support services upon application of the contracted service provider of student support services to the commissioner where, by logging into a protected web portal and entering in the employee name and social security number, contracted service providers of student support services would be able to access fingerprint results, whether the employee first completed a form provided to them by the contracted service provider of student support services, or received a form previously from a school district, charter school or board of cooperative educational services. Nothing in this section shall require an employee who has already submitted their fingerprints to the commissioner to have to submit them again, so long as they were not destroyed.

(b) Conditional clearance. When the commissioner receives a request for a determination on the conditional clearance of a prospective employee, the commissioner, after receipt of a criminal history record from the division of criminal justice services, shall promptly notify the prospective employee and the appropriate school district, charter school, board of cooperative educational services, contracted service providers of student support services or nonpublic or private elementary or secondary school that the prospective employee to which such report relates is conditionally cleared for employment based upon his or her criminal history or that more time is needed to make the determination. If the commissioner determines that more time is needed, the notification shall include a good faith estimate of the amount of additional time needed. Such notification shall be made within fifteen business days after the commissioner receives the prospective employee's fingerprints. All determinations to grant or deny conditional clearance for employment pursuant to this paragraph shall be performed in accordance with subdivision sixteen of section two hundred ninety-six of the executive law and article twenty-three-A of the correction law.

§ 9. Subdivision 3 of section 3035 of the education law, as amended by section 8 of chapter 630 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

3. After receipt of a criminal history record from the division of criminal justice services and the federal bureau of investigation the commissioner shall promptly notify the appropriate school district, charter school, board of cooperative educational services, contracted service providers of student support services or nonpublic or private elementary or secondary school whether the prospective employee to which such report relates is cleared for employment based upon his or her criminal history. All determinations to grant or deny clearance for employment pursuant to this subdivision shall be performed in accordance with subdivision sixteen of section two hundred ninety-six of the executive law and article twenty-three-A of the correction law. When the commissioner denies a prospective employee clearance for employment, such prospective employee shall be afforded notice and the right to be heard and offer proof in opposition to such determination in accordance with the regulations of the commissioner.

§ 10. Section 1125 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

1 10. "Contracted service provider of student support services" shall
2 mean any individual or entity that contracts with, but not limited to, a
3 school district, a charter school, a board of cooperative educational
4 services, or a nonpublic school for the provision of substitute teach-
5 ers, substitute teacher assistants, substitute nurses, educational
6 professional, tutors, substitute school administrative support, and
7 other temporary student service personnel.

8 § 11. Subdivision 3 of section 424-a of the social services law, as
9 amended by section 8 of part D of chapter 501 of the laws of 2012, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 3. For purposes of this section, the term "provider" or "provider
12 agency" shall mean an authorized agency, the office of children and
13 family services, juvenile detention facilities subject to the certif-
14 ication of such office, programs established pursuant to article nine-
15 teen-H of the executive law, non-residential or residential programs or
16 facilities licensed or operated by the office of mental health or the
17 office for people with developmental disabilities except family care
18 homes, licensed child day care centers, including head start programs
19 which are funded pursuant to title V of the federal economic opportunity
20 act of nineteen hundred sixty-four, as amended, early intervention
21 service established pursuant to section twenty-five hundred forty of the
22 public health law, preschool services established pursuant to section
23 forty-four hundred ten of the education law, school-age child care
24 programs, contracted service providers of student support services as
25 defined in subdivision ten of section eleven hundred twenty-five of the
26 education law, special act school districts as enumerated in chapter
27 five hundred sixty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred sixty-seven, as
28 amended, programs and facilities licensed by the office of alcoholism
29 and substance abuse services, residential schools which are operated,
30 supervised or approved by the education department, and any other facil-
31 ity or provider agency, as defined in subdivision four of section four
32 hundred eighty-eight of this chapter, in regard to the employment of
33 staff, or use of providers of goods and services and staff of such
34 providers, consultants, interns and volunteers.

35 § 12. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 390-a of the social
36 services law, as amended by chapter 416 of the laws of 2000, is amended
37 to read as follows:

38 (a) review and evaluate the backgrounds of and information supplied by
39 any person applying to be a child day care center or school-age child
40 care program employee or volunteer or group family day care assistant, a
41 provider of family day care or group family day care, or a director of a
42 child day care center, head start day care center or school-age child
43 care program. Such procedures shall include but not be limited to the
44 following requirements: that the applicant set forth his or her employ-
45 ment history, provide personal and employment references; submit such
46 information as is required for screening with the statewide central
47 register of child abuse and maltreatment in accordance with the
48 provisions of section four hundred twenty-four-a of this article; sign a
49 sworn statement indicating whether, to the best of his or her knowledge,
50 he or she has ever been convicted of a crime in this state or any other
51 jurisdiction; and provide his or her fingerprints for submission to the
52 division of criminal justice services in accordance with the provisions
53 of section three hundred ninety-b of this title. Notwithstanding the
54 provisions of this paragraph, where a program has people working on
55 their premises through a contracted service provider of student support
56 services as defined in subdivision ten of section eleven hundred twen-

1 ty-five of the education law, and such contracted services provider of
2 student support services has properly performed checks on its employees
3 as a provider or provider agency under section four hundred
4 twenty-four-a of this chapter, then such program does not need to run
5 the check itself on the contracted service provider employees working on
6 their site;

7 § 13. This act shall take effect immediately; provided however that:

8 (a) the amendments to paragraph (a-2) of subdivision 3 of section 2854
9 of the education law made by section two of this act shall not affect
10 the expiration of such paragraph and shall expire and be deemed repealed
11 therewith; (b) the amendments to paragraph (d) of subdivision 30 of
12 section 305 of the education law made by section five of this act shall
13 not affect the repeal of such paragraph and shall be deemed repealed
14 therewith; and (c) the amendments to subdivision 3 of section 3035 of
15 the education law made by section eight of this act shall be subject to
16 the expiration and reversion of such subdivision, pursuant to section 12
17 of chapter 147 of the laws of 2001, as amended, when upon such date the
18 provisions of section nine of this act shall take effect.