

4575

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 30, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to pre-employment investigations for personnel employed in school districts

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3001-e  
2     to read as follows:

3     S 3001-E. PRE-EMPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION OF PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN SCHOOL  
4     DISTRICTS. 1. EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL CONDUCT A PRE-EMPLOYMENT BACK-  
5     GROUND INVESTIGATION FOR ALL PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN THE DISTRICT.

6     2. EACH DISTRICT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
7     SERVICES, SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS REQUIRING ALL PERSONNEL EMPLOYED  
8     IN SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SUBMIT TO MANDATORY BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRES  
9     AND TO SUCH OTHER TESTS FOR THE PRESENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES OR  
10    COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS SHALL BE DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY AND PROPER.

11    3. EVERY PERSON, AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
12    SHALL COMPLETE A BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE, SUBMIT TO SUCH OTHER TESTS  
13    FOR THE PRESENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS  
14    SHALL BE DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY AND PROPER AND SIGN A DECLARATION  
15    UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY REGARDING ANY PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.

16    4. NO SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO WORK INVOLVING THE  
17    CARE, CUSTODY OR SUPERVISION OF A CHILD IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT SUCH  
18    PERSON HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE PRESENCE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OR  
19    COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.

20    5. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "COMMUNICABLE DISEASE" SHALL MEAN ANY  
21    DISEASE THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, IN THE REASONABLE EXERCISE OF  
22    HIS OR HER MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, DETERMINES TO BE COMMUNICABLE, RAPIDLY  
23    EMERGENT OR A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH. THE LIST OF DESIG-  
24    NATED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IS IN SECTION 2.1 OF TITLE TEN OF THE NEW  
25    YORK CODES, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

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

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1 S 2. Subdivision 20 of section 2590-h of the education law, as amended  
2 by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 20. Ensure compliance with qualifications established for all person-  
4 nel employed in the city district, including the taking of fingerprints,  
5 BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRES AND SUBMISSION TO SUCH OTHER TESTS FOR THE  
6 PRESENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS SHALL BE  
7 DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY AND PROPER as a prerequisite for licensure  
8 and/or employment of such personnel. Every set of fingerprints taken  
9 pursuant to this subdivision shall be promptly submitted to the division  
10 of criminal justice services where it shall be appropriately processed.  
11 Furthermore, the division of criminal justice services is authorized to  
12 submit the fingerprints to the federal bureau of investigation for a  
13 national criminal history record check.

14 S 3. Subdivision 20 of section 2590-h of the education law, as amended  
15 by chapter 100 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

16 20. Ensure compliance with qualifications established for all person-  
17 nel employed in the city district, including the taking of fingerprints,  
18 BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRES AND SUBMISSION TO SUCH OTHER TESTS FOR THE  
19 PRESENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS SHALL BE  
20 DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY AND PROPER as a prerequisite for licensure  
21 and/or employment of such personnel. Every set of fingerprints taken  
22 pursuant to this subdivision shall be promptly submitted to the division  
23 of criminal justice services where it shall be appropriately processed.  
24 Furthermore, the division of criminal justice services is authorized to  
25 submit the fingerprints to the federal bureau of investigation for a  
26 national criminal history record check.

27 S 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
28 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the  
29 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule and regulation necessary  
30 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized  
31 and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date;  
32 and provided, further, that the amendments to subdivision 20 of section  
33 2590-h of the education law, made by section two of this act, shall not  
34 affect the expiration and reversion of such section and shall expire  
35 therewith, when upon such date section three of this act shall take  
36 effect.