

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2692 Session of  
2006

INTRODUCED BY MCILHINNEY, BEBKO-JONES, CREIGHTON, SIPTROTH,  
WATSON AND E. Z. TAYLOR, MAY 25, 2006

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 25, 2006

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for background  
6 checks of prospective employees and conviction of certain  
7 offenses.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 111 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
11 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended  
12 December 19, 1990 (P.L.1362, No.211), December 23, 2003  
13 (P.L.304, No.48) and July 4, 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), is amended  
14 to read:

15 Section 111. Background Checks of Prospective and Current  
16 Employees; Conviction of Employees of Certain Offenses.--(a) This  
17 section shall apply to all prospective and current employees of  
18 public and private schools, intermediate units and area  
19 vocational-technical schools, including independent contractors  
20 and their employees, except those employees and independent

1 contractors and their employees who have no direct contact with  
2 children.

3 (b) Administrators of public and private schools,  
4 intermediate units and area vocational-technical schools shall  
5 require prospective and current employees to submit with their  
6 employment application or annually, pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. Ch.91  
7 (relating to criminal history record information), a report of  
8 criminal history record information from the Pennsylvania State  
9 Police or a statement from the Pennsylvania State Police that  
10 the State Police central repository contains no such information  
11 relating to that person. Such criminal history record  
12 information shall be limited to that which is disseminated  
13 pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. § 9121(b)(2) (relating to general  
14 regulations) and shall be no more than one (1) year old. An  
15 applicant may submit a copy of the required information with the  
16 application for employment. Administrators shall maintain a copy  
17 of the required information and shall require each [applicant]  
18 person to produce the original document prior to or during the  
19 course of employment. Administrators shall require contractors  
20 to produce the original document for each prospective employee of  
21 such contractor prior to employment.

22 (c) [Where the applicant has not been a resident of this  
23 Commonwealth for at least two (2) years immediately preceding  
24 the date of application for employment, administrators]  
25 Administrators shall require the applicant to submit with the  
26 application for employment or a current employee to submit  
27 annually a set of fingerprints which [may] shall be submitted to  
28 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Federal criminal history  
29 record information pursuant to the Federal Bureau of  
30 Investigation appropriation of Title II of Public Law 92-544, 86

1 Stat. 1115 or a copy of such Federal criminal history record.  
2 Administrators shall forward the set of fingerprints for the  
3 Federal criminal history record to the Department of Education.  
4 The Department of Education shall be the intermediary for the  
5 purposes of this section. The Department of Education shall  
6 return the Federal criminal history record to the applicant or  
7 current employe. When the applicant or current employe provides  
8 a copy of the Federal criminal history record, it shall be no  
9 more than one (1) year old. Administrators shall maintain a copy  
10 of the required information and shall require each applicant to  
11 produce a Federal criminal history record that may not be more  
12 than one (1) year old at the time of employment. Administrators  
13 shall maintain a copy of the required information and shall  
14 require each current employe to produce a Federal criminal  
15 history record that may not be more than one (1) year old. The  
16 original Federal criminal history record shall be returned [to  
17 the applicant].

18 (d) The State Board of Education shall, in the manner  
19 provided by law, promulgate the regulations necessary to carry  
20 out this section. The regulations shall provide for the  
21 confidentiality of criminal history record information obtained  
22 pursuant to this act.

23 (e) No person subject to this act shall be employed in a  
24 public or private school, intermediate unit or area vocational-  
25 technical school where the report of criminal history record  
26 information indicates the [applicant] person has been  
27 convicted[, within five (5) years immediately preceding the date  
28 of the report,] of any of the following offenses:

29 (1) An offense under one or more of the following provisions  
30 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes:

Chapter 25 (relating to criminal homicide).

Section 2702 (relating to aggravated assault).

Former section 2709(b) (relating to stalking).

Section 2709.1 (relating to stalking).

Section 2901 (relating to kidnapping).

Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint).

Section 3121 (relating to rape).

Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).

Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse).

Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).

Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

Section 4302 (relating to incest).

Section 4303 (relating to concealing death of child).

Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of children).

Section 4305 (relating to dealing in infant children).

A felony offense under section 5902(b) (relating to prostitution and related offenses).

Section 5903(c) or (d) (relating to obscene and other sexual materials and performances).

Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors).

Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).

(2) An offense designated as a felony under the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act."

(3) An out-of-State or Federal offense similar in nature to those crimes listed in clauses (1) and (2).

1 (f) The requirements of this section shall not apply to  
2 employes of public and private schools, intermediate units and  
3 area vocational-technical schools who meet all the following  
4 requirements:

5 (1) The employes are under twenty-one (21) years of age.

6 (2) They are employed for periods of ninety (90) days or  
7 less.

8 (3) They are a part of a job development and/or job training  
9 program funded in whole or in part by public or private sources.  
10 Once employment of a person who meets these conditions extends  
11 beyond ninety (90) days, all requirements of this section shall  
12 take effect.

13 (g) An administrator, or other person responsible for  
14 employment decisions in a school or other institution under this  
15 section who wilfully fails to comply with the provisions of this  
16 section commits a violation of this act and shall be subject to  
17 civil penalty as provided in this section.

18 (1) The department shall have jurisdiction to determine  
19 violators of this section and may, following a hearing, assess a  
20 civil penalty not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars  
21 (\$2,500).

22 (2) The civil penalty shall be payable to the Commonwealth.

23 (h) [No person employed in a public or private school on the  
24 effective date of this section shall be required to obtain the  
25 information required herein as a condition of continued  
26 employment. Any] Except to meet an annual requirement to submit  
27 information required under this section, a person who has once  
28 obtained the information required under this section may  
29 transfer to another school in the same district or established  
30 and supervised by the same organization and shall not be

1 required to obtain additional reports before making such  
2 transfer.

3 (i) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c), administrators  
4 may employ applicants on a provisional basis for a single period  
5 not to exceed thirty (30) days or, for out-of-State applicants,  
6 a period of ninety (90) days, except during a lawful strike  
7 proceeding under the provisions of the act of July 23, 1970  
8 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the "Public Employee Relations Act,"  
9 provided that all of the following conditions are met:

10 (1) the applicant has applied for the information required  
11 under subsection (b) and, where applicable, under subsection (c)  
12 and the applicant provides a copy of the appropriate completed  
13 request forms to the administrator;

14 (2) the administrator has no knowledge of information  
15 pertaining to the applicant which would disqualify him from  
16 employment pursuant to subsection (e);

17 (3) the applicant swears or affirms in writing that he is  
18 not disqualified from employment pursuant to subsection (e);

19 (4) if the information obtained pursuant to subsection (b)  
20 or (c) reveals that the applicant is disqualified from  
21 employment pursuant to subsection (e), the applicant shall be  
22 suspended and subject to termination proceedings as provided for  
23 by law; and

24 (5) the administrator requires that the applicant not be  
25 permitted to work alone with children and that the applicant  
26 work in the immediate vicinity of a permanent employee.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.