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HOUSE BILL 1707

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Hurst, Roach, Ballasiotes, Lovick, Mielke, Quall, Carrell, O'Brien, Veloria, Poulsen, Dunshee and Haigh

Read first time 02/01/2001. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to criminal history records check of prospective  
2 employees of institutions of higher education; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the safety of  
6 minors is of paramount importance. In the past, the legislature passed  
7 laws providing for background checks for employees and volunteers in  
8 the K-12 schools. The legislature finds that high school students  
9 participating in the running start program at a public institution of  
10 higher education do not receive the same protections as they receive in  
11 their high school.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) Institutions of higher education shall perform a fingerprint-  
15 based criminal history records check for conviction records through the  
16 Washington state patrol criminal identification system for the purpose  
17 of conducting preemployment evaluations of new employees who will have  
18 unsupervised contact with minors.

1 (2) If a prospective new employee has resided in the state of  
2 Washington for fewer than three years, a fingerprint-based criminal  
3 history records check for conviction records shall be conducted through  
4 the federal bureau of investigation.

5 (3) When necessary, the prospective new employee may be employed on  
6 a conditional basis pending the completion of the investigation.

7 (4) If the prospective new employee has had a criminal history  
8 records check by the Washington state patrol or the federal bureau of  
9 investigation within the previous two years, the institution of higher  
10 education may waive the requirement.

11 (5) The institution of higher education shall provide a copy of the  
12 record report to the prospective employee.

13 (6) The higher education coordinating board shall establish a list  
14 of criminal offenses that will disqualify a prospective employee from  
15 being hired by the institution of higher education. The conviction  
16 must be for a felony committed within the past ten years.

17 (7) The fees associated with the criminal history records check  
18 shall be paid by the requesting institution of higher education.

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