SSB 5899 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections

ADOPTED 04/13/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:

- 3 "Sec. 1. RCW 43.43.830 and 2003 c 105 s 5 are each amended to read 4 as follows:
- 5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in 6 this section apply throughout RCW 43.43.830 through ((43.43.840)) 7 43.43.845.
 - (1) "Applicant" means:

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- (a) Any prospective employee who will or may have unsupervised access to children under sixteen years of age or developmentally disabled persons or vulnerable adults during the course of his or her employment or involvement with the business or organization;
- (b) Any prospective volunteer who will have regularly scheduled unsupervised access to children under sixteen years of age, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults during the course of his or her employment or involvement with the business or organization under circumstances where such access will or may involve groups of (i) five or fewer children under twelve years of age, (ii) three or fewer children between twelve and sixteen years of age, (iii) developmentally disabled persons, or (iv) vulnerable adults;
- 21 (c) Any prospective adoptive parent, as defined in RCW 26.33.020; 22 or
- 23 (d) Any prospective custodian in a nonparental custody proceeding 24 under chapter 26.10 RCW.
- 25 (2) "Business or organization" means a business or organization 26 licensed in this state, any agency of the state, or other governmental 27 entity, that educates, trains, treats, supervises, houses, or provides 28 recreation to developmentally disabled persons, vulnerable adults, or 29 children under sixteen years of age, including but not limited to

public housing authorities, school districts, and educational service districts.

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- (3) "Civil adjudication proceeding" ((means a specific court finding of sexual abuse or exploitation or physical abuse in a dependency action under RCW 13.34.040 or in a domestic relations action under Title 26 RCW. In the case of vulnerable adults, civil adjudication means a specific court finding of abuse or financial exploitation in a protection proceeding under chapter 74.34 RCW. It does not include administrative proceedings. The term "civil adjudication" is further limited to court findings that identify as the perpetrator of the abuse a named individual, over the age of eighteen years, who was a party to the dependency or dissolution proceeding or was a respondent in a protection proceeding in which the finding was made and who contested the allegation of abuse or exploitation)) is a judicial or administrative adjudicative proceeding that results in a finding of, or upholds an agency finding of, domestic violence, abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation or financial exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult under chapter 13.34, 26.44, or 74.34 RCW, or rules adopted under chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW. "Civil adjudication" proceeding" also includes judicial or administrative orders that become final due to the failure of the alleged perpetrator to timely exercise a right afforded to him or her to administratively challenge findings made by the department of social and health services or the department of health under chapter 13.34, 26.44, or 74.34 RCW, or rules adopted under chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW.
- (4) "Conviction record" means "conviction record" information as defined in RCW $10.97.030(({}({}+3)))$ and 10.97.050 relating to a crime $(({}+3))$ and $({}+4)$ relating to a crime $({}+4)$ relating to a conviction for an offense that has been the subject of an expungement, pardon, annulment, certificate of rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of the rehabilitation of the person convicted, or a conviction that has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of innocence. It does include convictions for offenses for which the defendant received a deferred or suspended sentence, unless the record has been expunged according to law.
- (5) "Crime against children or other persons" means a conviction of any of the following offenses: Aggravated murder; first or second

degree murder; first or second degree kidnaping; first, second, or 1 2 third degree assault; first, second, or third degree assault of a child; first, second, or third degree rape; first, second, or third 3 degree rape of a child; first or second degree robbery; first degree 4 arson; first degree burglary; first or second degree manslaughter; 5 first or second degree extortion; indecent liberties; incest; vehicular 6 homicide; first degree promoting prostitution; communication with a 7 minor; unlawful imprisonment; simple assault; sexual exploitation of 8 minors; first or second degree criminal mistreatment; endangerment with 9 a controlled substance; child abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 10 26.44.020; first or second degree custodial interference; first or 11 12 second degree custodial sexual misconduct; malicious harassment; first, 13 second, or third degree child molestation; first or second degree sexual misconduct with a minor; patronizing a juvenile prostitute; 14 child abandonment; promoting pornography; selling or distributing 15 erotic material to a minor; custodial assault; violation of child abuse 16 restraining order; child buying or selling; prostitution; felony 17 indecent exposure; criminal abandonment; or any of these crimes as they 18 may be renamed in the future. 19

- (6) "Crimes relating to drugs" means a conviction of a crime to manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance.
- (7) "Crimes relating to financial exploitation" means a conviction for first, second, or third degree extortion; first, second, or third degree theft; first or second degree robbery; forgery; or any of these crimes as they may be renamed in the future.
- (8) (("Disciplinary board final decision" means any final decision issued by a disciplining authority under chapter 18.130 RCW or the secretary of the department of health for the following businesses or professions:
 - (a) Chiropractic;
 - (b) Dentistry;
- 33 (c) Dental hygiene;
- 34 (d) Massage;

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- 35 (e) Midwifery;
- 36 (f) Naturopathy;
- 37 (g) Osteopathic medicine and surgery;
- 38 (h) Physical therapy;

- 1 (i) Physicians;
- 2 (j) Practical nursing;
- 3 (k) Registered nursing; and
- 4 (1) Psychology.

- "Disciplinary board final decision," for real estate brokers and salespersons, means any final decision issued by the director of the department of licensing for real estate brokers and salespersons.
 - (9)) "Unsupervised" means not in the presence of:
- 9 (a) Another employee or volunteer from the same business or 10 organization as the applicant; or
 - (b) Any relative or guardian of any of the children or developmentally disabled persons or vulnerable adults to which the applicant has access during the course of his or her employment or involvement with the business or organization.
 - (((10))) (9) "Vulnerable adult" means "vulnerable adult" as defined in chapter 74.34 RCW, except that for the purposes of requesting and receiving background checks pursuant to RCW 43.43.832, it shall also include adults of any age who lack the functional, mental, or physical ability to care for themselves.
- (((11))) (10) "Financial exploitation" means ((the illegal or improper use of a vulnerable adult or that adult's resources for another person's profit or advantage)) "financial exploitation" as defined in RCW 74.34.020.
- $((\frac{(12)}{(12)}))$ (11) "Agency" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or facility which receives, provides services to, houses or otherwise cares for vulnerable adults.
- **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.43.832 and 2000 c 87 s 1 are each amended to read 28 as follows:
 - (1) The legislature finds that businesses and organizations providing services to children, developmentally disabled persons, and vulnerable adults need adequate information to determine which employees or licensees to hire or engage. The legislature further finds that many developmentally disabled individuals and vulnerable adults desire to hire their own employees directly and also need adequate information to determine which employees or licensees to hire or engage. Therefore, the Washington state patrol ((criminal)) identification ((system)) and criminal history section shall disclose,

- upon the request of a business or organization as defined in RCW 43.43.830, a developmentally disabled person, or a vulnerable adult as defined in RCW 43.43.830 or his or her guardian, an applicant's record for convictions ((of offenses against children or other persons, convictions for crimes relating to financial exploitation, but only if the victim was a vulnerable adult, adjudications of child abuse in a civil action, the issuance of a protection order against the respondent under chapter 74.34 RCW, and disciplinary board final decisions and any subsequent criminal charges associated with the conduct that is the subject of the disciplinary board final decision)) as defined in chapter 10.97 RCW.
 - (2) The legislature also finds that the state board of education may request of the Washington state patrol criminal identification system information regarding a certificate applicant's record for convictions under subsection (1) of this section.

- (3) The legislature also finds that law enforcement agencies, the office of the attorney general, prosecuting authorities, and the department of social and health services may request this same information to aid in the investigation and prosecution of child, developmentally disabled person, and vulnerable adult abuse cases and to protect children and adults from further incidents of abuse.
- (4) The legislature further finds that the <u>secretary of the</u> department of social and health services must ((consider)) <u>establish</u> rules and set standards to require specific action when considering the information listed in subsection (1) of this section, and when considering additional information including but not limited to civil adjudication proceedings as defined in RCW 43.43.830 and any out-of-state equivalent, in the following circumstances:
- (a) When considering persons for state employment in positions directly responsible for the supervision, care, or treatment of children, vulnerable adults, or individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities;
- (b) When considering persons for state positions involving unsupervised access to vulnerable adults to conduct comprehensive assessments, financial eligibility determinations, licensing and certification activities, investigations, surveys, or case management; or for state positions otherwise required by federal law to meet employment standards;

(c) When licensing agencies or facilities with individuals in positions directly responsible for the care, supervision, or treatment of children, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults, including but not limited to agencies or facilities licensed under chapter 74.15 or 18.51 RCW;

- (d) When contracting with individuals or businesses or organizations for the care, supervision, case management, or treatment of children, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults, including but not limited to services contracted for under chapter 18.20, 18.48, 70.127, 70.128, 72.36, or 74.39A RCW or Title 71A RCW;
- (e) When individual providers are paid by the state or providers are paid by home care agencies to provide in-home services involving unsupervised access to persons with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities or mental illness, or to vulnerable adults as defined in chapter 74.34 RCW, including but not limited to services provided under chapter 74.39 or 74.39A RCW.
- (5) Whenever a state conviction record check is required by state law, persons may be employed or engaged as volunteers or independent contractors on a conditional basis pending completion of the state background investigation. Whenever a national criminal record check through the federal bureau of investigation is required by state law, a person may be employed or engaged as a volunteer or independent contractor on a conditional basis pending completion of the national check. The Washington personnel resources board shall adopt rules to accomplish the purposes of this subsection as it applies to state employees.
- (6)(a) For purposes of facilitating timely access to criminal background information and to reasonably minimize the number of requests made under this section, recognizing that certain health care providers change employment frequently, health care facilities may, upon request from another health care facility, share copies of completed criminal background inquiry information.
- (b) Completed criminal background inquiry information may be shared by a willing health care facility only if the following conditions are satisfied: The licensed health care facility sharing the criminal background inquiry information is reasonably known to be the person's most recent employer, no more than twelve months has elapsed from the

date the person was last employed at a licensed health care facility to the date of their current employment application, and the criminal background information is no more than two years old.

- (c) If criminal background inquiry information is shared, the health care facility employing the subject of the inquiry must require the applicant to sign a disclosure statement indicating that there has been no conviction or finding as described in RCW 43.43.842 since the completion date of the most recent criminal background inquiry.
- (d) Any health care facility that knows or has reason to believe that an applicant has or may have a disqualifying conviction or finding as described in RCW 43.43.842, subsequent to the completion date of their most recent criminal background inquiry, shall be prohibited from relying on the applicant's previous employer's criminal background inquiry information. A new criminal background inquiry shall be requested pursuant to RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.842.
- (e) Health care facilities that share criminal background inquiry information shall be immune from any claim of defamation, invasion of privacy, negligence, or any other claim in connection with any dissemination of this information in accordance with this subsection.
- (f) Health care facilities shall transmit and receive the criminal background inquiry information in a manner that reasonably protects the subject's rights to privacy and confidentiality.
- (g) For the purposes of this subsection, "health care facility" means a nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, a boarding home licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, or an adult family home licensed under chapter 70.128 RCW.
- (7) If a federal bureau of investigation check is required in addition to the state background check by the department of social and health services, an applicant who is not disqualified based on the results of the state background check shall be eligible for a one hundred twenty day provisional approval to hire, pending the outcome of the federal bureau of investigation check. The department may extend the provisional approval until receipt of the federal bureau of investigation check. If the federal bureau of investigation check disqualifies an applicant, the department shall notify the requestor that the provisional approval to hire is withdrawn and the applicant may be terminated.

Sec. 3. RCW 43.43.834 and 1999 c 21 s 2 are each amended to read 2 as follows:

- (1) A business or organization shall not make an inquiry to the Washington state patrol under RCW 43.43.832 or an equivalent inquiry to a federal law enforcement agency unless the business or organization has notified the applicant who has been offered a position as an employee or volunteer, that an inquiry may be made.
- 8 (2) A business or organization shall require each applicant to 9 disclose to the business or organization whether the applicant ((has 10 been)):
- 11 (a) <u>Has been convicted of ((any)) a crime ((against children or other persons));</u>
- 13 (b) ((Convicted of crimes relating to financial exploitation if the
 14 victim was a vulnerable adult)) Has had findings made against him or
 15 her in any civil adjudicative proceeding as defined in RCW 43.43.830;
 16 or
- 17 (c) ((Convicted of crimes related to drugs as defined in RCW 43.43.830;
 - (d) Found in any dependency action under RCW 13.34.040 to have sexually assaulted or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor;
 - (e) Found by a court in a domestic relations proceeding under Title 26 RCW to have sexually abused or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor;
 - (f) Found in any disciplinary board final decision to have sexually or physically abused or exploited any minor or developmentally disabled person or to have abused or financially exploited any vulnerable adult; or
- 29 (g) Found by a court in a protection proceeding under chapter 74.34 30 RCW, to have abused or financially exploited a vulnerable adult.
 - The disclosure shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant and sworn under penalty of perjury. The disclosure sheet shall specify all crimes against children or other persons and all crimes relating to financial exploitation as defined in RCW 43.43.830 in which the victim was a vulnerable adult)) Has both a conviction under (a) of this subsection and findings made against him or her under (b) of this subsection.

1 (3) The business or organization shall pay such reasonable fee for 2 the records check as the state patrol may require under RCW 43.43.838.

- (4) The business or organization shall notify the applicant of the state patrol's response within ten days after receipt by the business or organization. The employer shall provide a copy of the response to the applicant and shall notify the applicant of such availability.
- (5) The business or organization shall use this record only in making the initial employment or engagement decision. Further dissemination or use of the record is prohibited, except as provided in RCW 28A.320.155. A business or organization violating this subsection is subject to a civil action for damages.
- (6) An insurance company shall not require a business or organization to request background information on any employee before issuing a policy of insurance.
- 15 (7) The business and organization shall be immune from civil 16 liability for failure to request background information on an applicant 17 unless the failure to do so constitutes gross negligence.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.43.836 and 1987 c 486 s 4 are each amended to read 19 as follows:

An individual may contact the state patrol to ascertain whether ((that same)) an individual has a ((civil adjudication, disciplinary board final decision, or)) conviction record. The state patrol shall disclose such information, subject to the fee established under RCW 43.43.838.

- **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.43.838 and 1995 c 29 s 1 are each amended to read 26 as follows:
 - (1) After January 1, 1988, and notwithstanding any provision of RCW 43.43.700 through 43.43.810 to the contrary, the state patrol shall furnish a transcript of the conviction record((, disciplinary board final decision and any subsequent criminal charges associated with the conduct that is the subject of the disciplinary board final decision, or civil adjudication record)) pertaining to any person for whom the state patrol or the federal bureau of investigation has a record upon the written request of:
 - (a) The subject of the inquiry;

- 1 (b) Any business or organization for the purpose of conducting 2 evaluations under RCW 43.43.832;
 - (c) The department of social and health services;

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- (d) Any law enforcement agency, prosecuting authority, or the office of the attorney general; or
- (e) The department of social and health services for the purpose of meeting responsibilities set forth in chapter 74.15, 18.51, 18.20, or 72.23 RCW, or any later-enacted statute which purpose is to regulate or license a facility which handles vulnerable adults. However, access to conviction records pursuant to this subsection (1)(e) does not limit or restrict the ability of the department to obtain additional information regarding conviction records and pending charges as set forth in RCW 74.15.030(2)(b).
- ((After processing the request, if the conviction record, disciplinary board final decision and any subsequent criminal charges associated with the conduct that is the subject of the disciplinary board final decision, or adjudication record shows no evidence of a crime against children or other persons or, in the case of vulnerable adults, no evidence of crimes relating to financial exploitation in which the victim was a vulnerable adult, an identification declaring the showing of no evidence shall be issued to the business or organization by the state patrol and shall be issued within fourteen working days of the request. The business or organization shall provide a copy of the identification declaring the showing of no evidence to the applicant. Possession of such identification shall satisfy future record check requirements for the applicant for a twoyear period unless the prospective employee is any current school district employee who has applied for a position in another school district.))
- (2) The state patrol shall by rule establish fees for disseminating records under this section to recipients identified in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section. The state patrol shall also by rule establish fees for disseminating records in the custody of the national crime information center. The revenue from the fees shall cover, as nearly as practicable, the direct and indirect costs to the state patrol of disseminating the records $((\div PROVIDED, That))$. No fee shall be charged to a nonprofit organization for the records check $((\div PROVIDED, That))$. In the case of record checks using

fingerprints requested by school districts and educational service districts, the state patrol shall charge only for the incremental costs associated with checking fingerprints in addition to name and date of birth. Record checks requested by school districts and educational service districts using only name and date of birth shall continue to be provided free of charge.

- (3) No employee of the state, employee of a business or organization, or the business or organization is liable for defamation, invasion of privacy, negligence, or any other claim in connection with any lawful dissemination of information under RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.840 or 43.43.760.
- (4) Before July 26, 1987, the state patrol shall adopt rules and forms to implement this section and to provide for security and privacy of information disseminated under this section, giving first priority to the criminal justice requirements of this chapter. The rules may include requirements for users, audits of users, and other procedures to prevent use of civil adjudication record information or criminal history record information inconsistent with this chapter.
- 19 (5) Nothing in RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.840 shall authorize an 20 employer to make an inquiry not specifically authorized by this 21 chapter, or be construed to affect the policy of the state declared in 22 chapter 9.96A RCW.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.43.840 and 1997 c 386 s 40 are each amended to read 24 as follows:
 - (((1) The supreme court shall by rule require the courts of the state to notify the state patrol of any dependency action under RCW 13.34.040, domestic relations action under Title 26 RCW, or protection action under chapter 74.34 RCW, in which the court makes specific findings of physical abuse or sexual abuse or exploitation of a child or abuse or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
 - (2) The department of licensing shall notify the state patrol of any disciplinary board final decision that includes specific findings of physical abuse or sexual abuse or exploitation of a child or abuse or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
- 35 (3)) When a business or an organization terminates, fires, 36 dismisses, fails to renew the contract, or permits the resignation of 37 an employee because of crimes against children or other persons or

- because of crimes relating to the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, and if that employee is employed in a position requiring a certificate or license issued by a licensing agency such as the state board of education, the business or organization shall notify the licensing agency of such termination of employment.
- **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.43.845 and 1990 c 33 s 577 are each amended to read 7 as follows:

- (1) Upon a guilty plea or conviction of a person of any felony crime involving the physical neglect of a child under chapter 9A.42 RCW, the physical injury or death of a child under chapter 9A.32 or 9A.36 RCW (except motor vehicle violations under chapter 46.61 RCW), sexual exploitation of a child under chapter 9.68A RCW, sexual offenses under chapter 9A.44 RCW where a minor is the victim, promoting prostitution of a minor under chapter 9A.88 RCW, or the sale or purchase of a minor child under RCW 9A.64.030, ((the prosecuting attorney shall determine whether the person holds a certificate or permit issued under chapters 28A.405 and 28A.410 RCW or is employed by a school district. If the person is employed by a school district or holds a certificate or permit issued under chapters 28A.405 and 28A.410 RCW,)) the prosecuting attorney shall notify the state patrol of such quilty pleas or convictions.
- (2) When the state patrol receives information that a person ((who has a certificate or permit issued under chapters 28A.405 and 28A.410 RCW or is employed by a school district)) has pled guilty to or been convicted of one of the felony crimes under subsection (1) of this section, the state patrol shall ((immediately)) transmit that information to the superintendent of public instruction. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of public instruction to identify whether the person holds a certificate or permit issued under chapters 28A.405 and 28A.410 RCW or is employed by a school district, and provide this information to the state board of education and the school district employing the individual who pled guilty or was convicted of the crimes identified in subsection (1) of this section.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. RCW 43.43.835 (Background checks--Drugrelated conviction information) and 1998 c 10 s 2 are each repealed."

EFFECT: Under the original bill, if a business or organization (that provides services to persons with a developmental disability, vulnerable adults, persons with a mental illness, or children under 16 years of age) requests a criminal background check on an employee or volunteer, the WSP was required to disseminate all criminal conviction data with the exception of pending charges of a person who is currently being processed by the criminal justice system. The amendment restores that language to current law and organizations will be able to continue to receive background check records that contain pending charges of an individual.

Under current law, when a person pleads guilty to certain offenses, the prosecuting attorney must determine whether the defendant holds a teaching certificate or is employed by a school. If the person is employed by a school then the prosecutor must notify the WSP and then WSP notifies OSPI, who in turn notifies the Board of Education. original bill as drafted, would require the prosecuting attorney to notify OSPI directly (taking the WSP out of the loop) if a person employed by a school district pleads guilty to certain offenses. The amendment no longer requires the prosecuting attorney to determine whether the defendant has a teaching certificate or is employed by a school. The difference is that now the OSPI must determine whether the defendant has a teaching certificate or is employed by a school (instead of the prosecutor's office). As provided in current statute, the prosecutor will continue to notify the WSP when a person is being convicted of certain crimes and then the WSP will continue to notify OSPI who will in turn notify the Board of Education.

The striker makes other clarifications.

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