

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 688

An act relating to health care; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to convene an interagency workgroup to study issues pertaining to certain background screening requirements for health care professionals and owners, operators, and employees of certain health care providers, services, and programs; providing for composition of the workgroup; requiring a report; repealing s. 71(1) of ch. 98-171, Laws of Florida; abrogating the repeal of provisions of law which require background screening of applicants for licensure, certification, or registration; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall convene an interagency workgroup to study ways to establish the uniform requirements for background screening of applicants for licensure, certification, or registration of health care professionals and for owners, operators, and employees of health care providers, services, and programs that are regulated by the agency and subject to background-screening requirements. The workgroup shall review chapter 435, Florida Statutes, and propose revisions to the list of criminal offenses, specify appropriate statutes of limitation for offenses leading to disqualification, and identify additional civil actions that should be considered as disqualifying.

(2) The interagency workgroup shall, at a minimum, include a representative of:

(a) The Office of Statewide Prosecution;

(b) The Attorney General;

(c) The Department of Children and Family Services;

(d) The Department of Health;

(e) The Department of Elderly Affairs;

(f) The Senate as appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(g) The House of Representatives as appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) The workgroup shall complete its study and review by November 1, 2001, and shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2001, after which, the workgroup is abolished.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 71 of chapter 98-171, Laws of Florida, is repealed.

Section 3. This act shall take effect June 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor May 29, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 2001.