

**Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

SENATE BILL NO. 2117
(Judiciary Committee)
(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to criminal history record checks for medicaid services applicants, providers, and staff members; to amend and reenact section 50-06-01.9 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to criminal history record checks for job applicants, department staff, county employees, contractors, and medicaid services applicants, providers, and staff members; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 50-06-01.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-06-01.9. Criminal history record checks.

~~The~~In accordance with section 12-60-24, the department may require criminal history record checks as the department determines appropriate for:

1. ~~Employees~~Job applicants of the department and employees of the department upon hiring;
2. Job applicants of the county social service agencies and the department's and county social service agencies' contractors and contractors' subcontractors that may have access to federal tax information received from the United States internal revenue service through a computer match and stored in the department's eligibility system;
3. A criminal history record check conducted under subsections 1 and 2 is valid for ten years, after which the department shall require another criminal history record check on employees of the department, county social service agencies, and the department's and county social service agencies' contractors and contractors' subcontractors that may have access to federal tax information received from the United States internal revenue service through a computer match and stored in the department's eligibility system;
4. Providers licensed by the department under chapter 50-12, as well as for any employees of those providers; and
- ~~3-5.~~ Applicants for early childhood services licensure, nonlicensed holders of a self-declaration, and in-home providers under chapter 50-11.1. The department also may require criminal history record checks for new staff members of those applicants, providers of an applicant, and a provider if the provider is providing early childhood services within the provider's home; and
6. Medicaid services applicant providers, medicaid services providers, staff members of the applicant provider or provider, or an individual with a five percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in the applicant provider or provider under chapter 50-24.1.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Criminal background investigation - Fingerprinting required.

1. When the department determines a criminal history record check is appropriate, a provider applicant, a provider, staff members of the applicant provider or provider, or an individual with a five percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in the provider applicant or provider shall secure, from a law enforcement agency or any other agency authorized to take fingerprints, two sets of fingerprints and shall provide all other information necessary to secure state criminal history record information and a nationwide background check under federal law.
2. The applicant provider or provider shall assure the information obtained under subsection 1 is provided to the department within thirty days of the notice date.
3. The department shall submit the information and fingerprints to the bureau of criminal investigation to determine if there is any criminal history record information regarding the applicant provider, provider, staff members of the applicant provider or provider, or an individual with a five percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in the provider applicant or provider in accordance with section 12-60-24.
4. The bureau of criminal investigation shall request a nationwide background check from the federal bureau of investigation and, upon receipt of response, provide the response of the federal bureau of investigation to the department. The bureau also shall provide any criminal history record information that lawfully may be made available under chapter 12-60 to the department.
5. The results of the investigations must be forwarded to the department.
6. Upon request by the applicant provider, provider, staff members of the applicant provider or provider, or an individual with a five percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in the provider applicant or provider, a law enforcement agency shall take fingerprints of individuals described in this section if the request is made for purposes of this section.
7. The applicant provider, provider, staff members of the applicant provider or provider, or an individual with a five percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in the provider applicant or provider shall pay the cost of securing fingerprints, any criminal history record information made available under chapter 12-60, and a nationwide background check.
8. The department may charge a fee not to exceed the actual cost for the purpose of processing the background investigations.
9. An agency that takes fingerprints as provided under this section may charge a reasonable fee to offset the cost of the fingerprinting.
10. The department may use the background information findings to determine approval of medicaid services provider application or termination of enrollment as a medicaid services provider. An individual denied or terminated as a medicaid service provider as a result of the background investigation may not be qualified to enroll as a provider, have five percent or greater ownership or control interest in a medicaid services provider, or submit claims for reimbursement through the department's medicaid management information system.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective July 1, 2017.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2117 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 1 Absent 0

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 69 Nays 23 Absent 2

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2017.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2017.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2017,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State