



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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June 12, 2025



The Honorable Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Michelle Fontenot
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: House Bill 352 of the 2025 Regular Session by Representative Ed Larvadain III

Dear Speaker DeVillier and Clerk Fontenot:

Please be advised I have vetoed House Bill 352 of the 2025 Regular Session.

The safety and well-being of our children are of the utmost importance. This bill eliminates the requirement for an applicant seeking a childhood ancillary certificate to obtain a criminal history record check. While I appreciate this legislation as an effort to improve government efficiency and an attempt to remove what has been called unnecessary duplication, I have serious concerns that this bill may result in gaps in an individual's criminal history record check.

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:8.9 currently requires any applicant for an initial educator credential or teaching authorization issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education through the state Department of Education to obtain a criminal history record check. House Bill 352 seeks to create an exception for this requirement for those obtaining a childhood ancillary certificate, presuming that these individuals have already undergone a criminal history record check. However, this proposal does not address the possibility that a criminal offense can be reported in the lapse of time between the initial criminal history record check and the obtainment of the childhood ancillary certificate. Additionally, the bill does not contemplate the possibility that an applicant may obtain a childhood ancillary certificate without the need for a criminal history record check if they have not already gone through the criminal history record check for a separate educator credential or teaching authorization.

As a father, there is nothing more important to me than the safety of our children. Existing law provides the necessary safeguards to protect the most vulnerable of our population.

For this reason, House Bill 352 will not become law.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Landry', written over the printed name.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned House Bill 352