

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

**HB 352**

**2025 Regular Session**

**Larvadain**

Present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C) and R.S. 17:407.42 and 407.71) requires criminal history checks for employment purposes. Proposed law would have retained present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:8.9) requires criminal history checks for certain credentials and authorization issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education through the state Dept. of Education. Proposed law would have excepted earning an early childhood ancillary certificate from requiring a criminal history check.

(Proposed to amend R.S. 17:8.9(A)(1); Proposed to add R.S. 17:8.9(A)(6))

### **VETO MESSAGE:**

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

The safety and well-being [sic] 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."