

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 803 (HB 420)

2026 Regular Session

Berault

Existing law provides for the functions, powers, and duties of the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Prior law provided that no person shall be hired by DCFS for duties including the investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys until the employee has submitted to a criminal background check and DCFS has inspected the state central registry of substantiated abuse or neglect (central registry) for the employee's name.

New law repeals prior law and requires the secretary of DCFS to conduct criminal background checks and searches of the central registry on all current and prospective employees of DCFS.

Existing law provides that any employee of DCFS whose duties include the investigation of child abuse or neglect, supervisory or disciplinary authority over children, direct care of a child, or performance of licensing surveys whose name is found on the central registry shall be terminated except that a permanent classified employee shall not be terminated until he has exhausted his administrative appeal rights.

New law extends the requirements of existing law to all employees of DCFS.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 36:474(B)(1)(a)(intro. para.) and R.S. 46:51.2(A)(1)(intro. para.) and (2); Adds R.S. 36:474(A)(10))