

By Senator Clemens

31-00600-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to criminal history records in
3 applications for public employment and admission to
4 public postsecondary educational institutions;
5 creating s. 760.105, F.S.; prohibiting a public
6 employer from inquiring into or considering an
7 applicant's criminal history on an initial employment
8 application unless required to do so by law; creating
9 s. 1007.36, F.S.; prohibiting public postsecondary
10 educational institutions from inquiring into or
11 considering the criminal history of an applicant
12 seeking admission; providing an effective date.

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14 WHEREAS, reducing barriers to public employment and
15 postsecondary education for people who have a criminal history,
16 reducing the unemployment rate, and increasing access to public
17 postsecondary education are issues of statewide concern, and

18 WHEREAS, prohibiting a public employer or public
19 postsecondary educational institution from inquiring into or
20 considering an applicant's criminal history on an initial
21 employment application or an admissions application increases
22 employment and educational opportunities for those who have a
23 criminal history, thereby reducing the rate of recidivism,
24 improving economic stability, and increasing access to public
25 postsecondary education, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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29 Section 1. Section 760.105, Florida Statutes, is created to

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30 read:

31 760.105 Unlawful employment screening.—Unless otherwise
32 required by law, a public employer, as defined in s. 440.102,
33 may not inquire into or consider an applicant's criminal history
34 on an initial employment application. A public employer may
35 inquire into or consider an applicant's criminal history only
36 after the applicant's qualifications have been screened and the
37 employer has determined that the applicant meets the minimum
38 employment requirements specified for a given position.

39 Section 2. Section 1007.36, Florida Statutes, is created to
40 read:

41 1007.36 Unlawful admissions inquiries.—A public
42 postsecondary educational institution may not inquire into or
43 consider the criminal history of an applicant seeking admission
44 to the institution.

45 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.