

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: RCS 04/17/2021 House

The Committee on Appropriations (Perry) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

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Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1001.10, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and duties.-

(4) The Department of Education shall:

(a) Provide technical assistance to school districts,

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11	charter schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
12	and private schools that accept scholarship students who
13	participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 in
14	the development of policies, procedures, and training related to
15	employment practices and standards of ethical conduct for
16	instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in
17	s. 1012.01.
18	(b) Maintain a disqualification list that includes all of
19	the following:
20	1. The identity of each person who has been permanently
21	denied an educator certificate or whose educator certificate has
22	been permanently revoked and has been placed on the list as
23	directed by the Education Practices Commission pursuant to s.
24	<u>1012.795(1) or s. 1012.796(7).</u>
25	2. The identity of each person who has been permanently
26	disqualified by the commissioner from owning or operating a
27	private school that participates in state scholarship programs
28	<u>under s. 1002.421.</u>
29	3. The identity of each person who has been terminated, or
30	has resigned in lieu of termination, from employment as a result
31	of sexual misconduct with a student.
32	4. The identity of each person who is ineligible for
33	educator certification or employment pursuant to s. 1012.315.
34	(c) The department may remove a person from the
35	disqualification list if the person demonstrates that:
36	1. A completed law enforcement investigation resulted in an
37	exoneration or no conviction or finding of guilt and a completed
38	investigation and proceeding, as applicable, by the responsible
39	education agency resulted in a finding that the person did not

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40	commit disqualifying conduct;
41	2. The person was not the subject of the report of
42	disqualifying conduct and was included on the disqualification
43	list in error or as a result of mistaken identity; or
44	3. The employer that submitted the person for inclusion on
45	the disqualification list requests that the person be removed
46	and submits documentation to support the request.
47	(d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
48	implement this subsection.
49	(5) The Department of Education shall provide authorized
50	staff of school districts, charter schools, the Florida School
51	for the Deaf and the Blind, and private schools that accept
52	scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship
53	program under chapter 1002 with access to electronic
54	verification of information from the following employment
55	screening tools:
56	(a) The Professional Practices' Database of Disciplinary
57	Actions Against Educators.; and
58	(b) The <u>department's</u> Department of Education's Teacher
59	Certification Database.
60	(c) The department's disqualification list under paragraph
61	<u>(4)(b)</u> .
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63	This subsection does not require the department to provide these
64	staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the
65	department shall provide the staff with access to the data
66	necessary for performing employment history checks of the
67	persons instructional personnel and school administrators
68	included in the databases.

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69 Section 2. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 1001.42,70 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

74 (6) STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL 75 PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, AND SCHOOL OFFICERS.-Adopt 76 policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for 77 educational support employees, instructional personnel, administrative personnel, and school officers. The policies must 78 79 require all educational support employees, instructional 80 personnel, administrative personnel, and school officers, as 81 defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training on the standards; 82 establish the duty of educational support employees, 83 instructional personnel, administrative personnel, and school 84 officers to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged 85 misconduct by other educational support employees, instructional or administrative personnel, and school officers which affects 86 87 the health, safety, or welfare of a student, including misconduct that involves engaging in or soliciting sexual, 88 89 romantic, or lewd conduct with a student; require the district 90 school superintendent to report to law enforcement misconduct by 91 educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 92 school administrators that would result in disqualification from 93 educator certification or employment as provided in s. 1012.315; 94 and include an explanation of the liability protections provided 95 under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. A district school board, or any of 96 its employees or personnel, may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed educational support 97

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Florida Senate - 2021 Bill No. SB 1864



98 employees, instructional or administrative personnel, or school 99 officers who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole or in 100 part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare 101 of a student, and may not provide educational support employees, 102 instructional personnel, administrative personnel, or school 103 officers with employment references or discuss the employees', personnel's, or officers' performance with prospective employers 104 105 in another educational setting, without disclosing the employees', personnel's, or officers' misconduct. Any part of an 106 107 agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of 108 concealing misconduct by educational support employees, 109 instructional personnel, administrative personnel, or school 110 officers which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 111 student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be 112 enforced. (7) PROHIBITION DISQUALIFICATION FROM EMPLOYMENT.-Prohibit 113 114 educational support employees, Disqualify instructional personnel, and administrative personnel, as defined in s. 115 116 1012.01, from employment in any position that requires direct 117 contact with students if the employees or personnel are 118 ineligible for such employment under s. 1012.315 or have been 119 terminated or resigned in lieu of termination for sexual 120 misconduct with a student. If the prohibited conduct occurs 121 while employed, the district school board must report the 122 employees or personnel and the disqualifying circumstances to 123 the department for inclusion on the disqualification list 124 maintained by the department pursuant s. 1001.10(4)(b). An 125 elected or appointed school board official forfeits his or her salary for 1 year if: 126

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127 (a) The school board official knowingly signs and transmits 128 to any state official a report of alleged misconduct by educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 129 130 administrative personnel which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student and the school board official knows the 131 132 report to be false or incorrect; or 133 (b) The school board official knowingly fails to adopt 134 policies that require: 1. Educational support employees, instructional personnel, 135 136 and administrative personnel to report alleged misconduct by 137 other educational support employees, instructional personnel, 138 and administrative personnel; 139 2. The district school superintendent to report misconduct 140 by educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 141 school administrators that would result in disqualification from 142 educator certification or employment as provided in s. 1012.315 143 to the law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the 144 conduct; or 145 3. The investigation of all reports of alleged misconduct 146 by educational support employees, instructional personnel, and 147 administrative personnel, if the misconduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, regardless of whether the 148 149 person resigned or was terminated before the conclusion of the 150 investigation. The policies must require the district school 151 superintendent to notify the department of the result of the 152 investigation and whether the misconduct warranted termination, 153 regardless of whether the person resigned or was terminated 154 before the conclusion of the investigation. 155 Section 3. Subsection (12) of section 1001.51, Florida



156 Statutes, is amended to read:

157 1001.51 Duties and responsibilities of district school 158 superintendent.-The district school superintendent shall 159 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below and 160 elsewhere in the law, provided that, in so doing, he or she 161 shall advise and counsel with the district school board. The 162 district school superintendent shall perform all tasks necessary 163 to make sound recommendations, nominations, proposals, and 164 reports required by law to be acted upon by the district school 165 board. All such recommendations, nominations, proposals, and 166 reports by the district school superintendent shall be either 167 recorded in the minutes or shall be made in writing, noted in 168 the minutes, and filed in the public records of the district 169 school board. It shall be presumed that, in the absence of the 170 record required in this section, the recommendations, nominations, and proposals required of the district school 171 172 superintendent were not contrary to the action taken by the 173 district school board in such matters.

(12) RECORDS AND REPORTS.—Recommend such records as should be kept in addition to those prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education; prepare forms for keeping such records as are approved by the district school board; ensure that such records are properly kept; and make all reports that are needed or required, as follows:

(a) Forms, blanks, and reports.-Require that all employees
accurately keep all records and promptly make in proper form all
reports required by the education code or by rules of the State
Board of Education; recommend the keeping of such additional
records and the making of such additional reports as may be

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185 deemed necessary to provide data essential for the operation of 186 the school system; and prepare such forms and blanks as may be 187 required and ensure that these records and reports are properly 188 prepared.

(b) Reports to the department.-Prepare, for the approval of 189 190 the district school board, all reports required by law or rules 191 of the State Board of Education to be made to the department and 192 transmit promptly all such reports, when approved, to the department, as required by law. If any reports are not 193 194 transmitted at the time and in the manner prescribed by law or 195 by State Board of Education rules, the salary of the district 196 school superintendent must be withheld until the report has been 197 properly submitted. Unless otherwise provided by rules of the 198 State Board of Education, the annual report on attendance and 199 personnel is due on or before July 1, and the annual school 200 budget and the report on finance are due on the date prescribed 201 by the commissioner.

203 Any district school superintendent who knowingly signs and 204 transmits to any state official a report that the superintendent 205 knows to be false or incorrect; who knowingly fails to complete 206 the investigation of investigate any allegation of misconduct 207 that by instructional personnel or school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, which affects the health, safety, or 208 209 welfare of a student, that would be a violation of s. 800.101, 210 or that would be a disqualifying offense under s. 1012.315, or 211 any allegation of sexual misconduct with a student; who 212 knowingly fails to report the alleged misconduct to the department as required in s. 1012.796; or who knowingly fails to 213

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214 report misconduct to the law enforcement agencies with 215 jurisdiction over the conduct pursuant to district school board 216 policy under s. 1001.42(6), forfeits his or her salary for 1 217 year following the date of such act or failure to act. 218 Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (12) of section 219 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 220 1002.33 Charter schools.-(12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.-221 2.2.2 (g)1. A charter school shall employ or contract with 223 employees who have undergone background screening as provided in 224 s. 1012.32. Members of the governing board of the charter school 225 shall also undergo background screening in a manner similar to 226 that provided in s. 1012.32. An individual may not be employed 227 as an employee or contract personnel of a charter school or 228 serve as a member of a charter school governing board if the 229 individual is on the disqualification list maintained by the 230 department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). 231 2. A charter school shall prohibit educational support 232 employees, disqualify instructional personnel, and school 233 administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, from employment in any 234 position that requires direct contact with students if the employees, personnel, or administrators are ineligible for such 235 236 employment under s. 1012.315 or have been terminated or resigned in lieu of termination for sexual misconduct with a student. If 237 238 the prohibited conduct occurs while employed, a charter school 239 must report the individual and the disqualifying circumstances 240 to the department for inclusion on the disqualification list 241 maintained pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). 242 3. The governing board of a charter school shall adopt

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243 policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for educational support employees, instructional personnel, and 244 school administrators. The policies must require all educational 245 246 support employees, instructional personnel, and school 247 administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training 248 on the standards; establish the duty of educational support employees, instructional personnel, and school administrators to 249 250 report, and procedures for reporting, alleged misconduct that by 251 other instructional personnel and school administrators which 252 affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student; and include 253 an explanation of the liability protections provided under ss. 254 39.203 and 768.095. A charter school, or any of its employees, 255 may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding 256 terminated or dismissed educational support employees, 257 instructional personnel, or school administrators, or employees, 258 personnel, or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, 259 based in whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, 260 safety, or welfare of a student, and may not provide employees, 261 instructional personnel, or school administrators with 262 employment references or discuss the employees', personnel's, or 263 administrators' performance with prospective employers in 264 another educational setting, without disclosing the employees', 265 personnel's, or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an 2.66 agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by educational support employees, 267 268 instructional personnel, or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary 269 270 to public policy, and may not be enforced.

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4. Before employing <u>an individual</u> instructional personnel

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272 or school administrators in any position that requires direct 273 contact with students, a charter school shall conduct employment 274 history checks of each individual of the personnel's or 275 administrators' previous employers, screen the instructional 276 personnel or school administrators through use of the educator 277 screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and document the 278 findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the charter 279 school must document efforts to contact the employer.

280 5. The sponsor of a charter school that knowingly fails to 281 comply with this paragraph shall terminate the charter under 282 subsection (8).

Section 5. Paragraphs (n) and (o) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (r) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

1002.421 State school choice scholarship program accountability and oversight.-

289 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-A private school participating in an educational scholarship program 291 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as 292 defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in 293 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private 297 schools, and must:

298 (n) Adopt policies establishing standards of ethical 299 conduct for educational support employees, instructional 300 personnel, and school administrators. The policies must require



301 all educational support employees, instructional personnel, and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete 302 training on the standards; establish the duty of educational 303 304 support employees, instructional personnel, and school 305 administrators to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged 306 misconduct by other educational support employees, instructional 307 personnel, and school administrators which affects the health, 308 safety, or welfare of a student; and include an explanation of the liability protections provided under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. 309 A private school, or any of its employees, may not enter into a 310 311 confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed 312 educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 313 school administrators, or employees, personnel, or 314 administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole 315 or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or 316 welfare of a student, and may not provide the employees, instructional personnel, or school administrators with 317 318 employment references or discuss the employees', personnel's, or 319 administrators' performance with prospective employers in 320 another educational setting, without disclosing the employees', 321 personnel's, or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an 322 agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of 323 concealing misconduct by educational support employees, 32.4 instructional personnel, or school administrators which affects 325 the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary 326 to public policy, and may not be enforced.

327 (o) Before employing <u>a person</u> instructional personnel or
 328 school administrators in any position that requires direct
 329 contact with students, conduct employment history checks of each

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330 of the personnel's or administrators' previous employers, screen 331 the person personnel or administrators through use of the 332 educator screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and 333 document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, 334 the private school must document efforts to contact the 335 employer. The private school may not employ a person whose 336 educator certificate is revoked, who is barred from reapplying 337 for an educator certificate, or who is on the disqualification 338 list maintained by the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b). 339 (r) Prohibit education support employees, instructional 340 personnel, and school administrators from employment in any 341 position that requires direct contact with students if the 342 personnel or administrators are ineligible for such employment

343 pursuant to this section or s. 1012.315, or have been terminated 344 or resigned in lieu of termination for sexual misconduct with a 345 student. If the prohibited conduct occurs subsequent to 346 employment, the private school must report the person and the 347 disqualifying circumstances to the department for inclusion on 348 the disqualification list maintained pursuant to s.

349 <u>1001.10(4)(b)</u>.

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351 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private 352 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and 353 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship 354 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a 355 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection 356 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the 357 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may 358 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate

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359 in a scholarship program.

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(3) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-The Commissioner of Education:

(a) Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's 362 363 participation in a scholarship program if it is determined that 364 the private school has failed to comply with this section or 365 exhibits a previous pattern of failure to comply. However, if 366 the noncompliance is correctable within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 45 days, and if the health, safety, or 367 welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may 368 369 issue a notice of noncompliance which provides the private 370 school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of 371 compliance before taking action to suspend or revoke the private 372 school's participation in the scholarship program.

373 (b) May deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's 374 participation in a scholarship program if the commissioner 375 determines that an owner or operator of the private school is 376 operating or has operated an educational institution in this 377 state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary 378 to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or if the owner 379 or operator has exhibited a previous pattern of failure to 380 comply with this section or specific requirements identified 381 within respective scholarship program laws. For purposes of this 382 subsection, the term "owner or operator" has the same meaning as 383 provided in paragraph (1)(p).

384 (c) May permanently deny or revoke the authority of an 385 owner or operator to establish or operate a private school in 386 the state if the commissioner decides that the owner or operator 387 is operating or has operated an educational institution in the

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388 state or another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary to 389 the health, safety, or welfare of the public, and shall include 390 such individuals on the disqualification list maintained by the 391 department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b).

392 (d)1.(c)1. In making such a determination, may consider 393 factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or omissions by an owner or operator which led to a previous denial, 394 395 suspension, or revocation of participation in a state or federal 396 education scholarship program; an owner's or operator's failure 397 to reimburse the department or scholarship-funding organization 398 for scholarship funds improperly received or retained by a 399 school; the imposition of a prior criminal sanction related to 400 an owner's or operator's management or operation of an 401 educational institution; the imposition of a civil fine or 402 administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or 403 program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation 404 related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of 405 an educational institution; or other types of criminal 406 proceedings in which an owner or operator was found quilty of, 407 regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere 408 or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, 409 or moral turpitude.

410 2. The commissioner's determination is subject to the 411 following:

a. If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke
a private school's participation in the scholarship program, the
department shall notify the private school of such proposed
action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to the
private school's address of record with the department. The



417 notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action 418 and notice of the timelines and procedures set forth in this 419 paragraph.

b. The private school that is adversely affected by the proposed action shall have 15 days after receipt of the notice of proposed action to file with the department's agency clerk a request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If the private school is entitled to a hearing under s. 120.57(1), the department shall forward the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings.

427 c. Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this 428 subparagraph, the director of the Division of Administrative 429 Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative 430 law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the 431 receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter 432 a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within 433 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is 434 later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit 435 written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall 436 be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a 437 recommended order. The provisions of this sub-subparagraph may 438 be waived upon stipulation by all parties.

439 <u>(e) (d)</u> May immediately suspend payment of scholarship funds 440 if it is determined that there is probable cause to believe that 441 there is:

442 1. An imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of 443 the students;

444 2. A previous pattern of failure to comply with this445 section; or

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446 3. Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school. 447 Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent 448 activity pursuant to this section, the department's Office of 449 Inspector General is authorized to release personally 450 identifiable records or reports of students to the following 451 persons or organizations: 452 a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an 453 order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with

a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

b. A person or entity authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

c. Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.

468 The commissioner's order suspending payment pursuant to this 469 paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and 470 timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in 471 subparagraph (d) 2 $\frac{(c)2}{(c)2}$.

Section 6. Subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 1006.061, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 1006.061 Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect policy.-Each

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475 district school board, charter school, and private school that 476 accepts scholarship students who participate in a state 477 scholarship program under chapter 1002 shall: 478 (2) Post in a prominent place at each school site and on 479 each school's Internet website, if available, the policies and 480 procedures for reporting alleged misconduct by educational 481 support employees, instructional personnel, or school 482 administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 483 student; the contact person to whom the report is made; and the penalties imposed on educational support employees, 484 485 instructional personnel, or school administrators who fail to 486 report suspected or actual child abuse or alleged misconduct by 487 other educational support employees, instructional personnel, or 488 school administrators. 489 (4) (a) Post in a prominent place in a clearly visible 490 location and public area of the school which is readily 491 accessible to and widely used by students a sign in English and 492 Spanish that contains: 493 1. The statewide toll-free telephone number of the central 494 abuse hotline as provided in chapter 39.+ 495 2. Instructions to call 911 for emergencies.; and 3. Directions for accessing the Department of Children and 496 497 Families Internet website for more information on reporting 498 abuse, neglect, and exploitation. 499 4. Directions for accessing the Department of Education's 500 website for more information on reporting acts that violate s. 501 800.101. 502 503 The Department of Education shall develop, and publish on the

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504 department's Internet website, sample notices suitable for 505 posting in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (4).

Section 7. Subsection (6) of section 1012.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.27 Public school personnel; powers and duties of 509 district school superintendent.-The district school superintendent is responsible for directing the work of the personnel, subject to the requirements of this chapter, and in addition the district school superintendent shall perform the 513 following:

(6) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY CHECKS.-Before employing a person in any position that requires direct contact with students, conduct employment history checks of each of the person's previous employers, review each affidavit of separation from previous employers pursuant to s. 1012.31, screen instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, through use of the educator screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the district school superintendent shall document efforts to contact the employer.

Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1012.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.31 Personnel files.-Public school system employee personnel files shall be maintained according to the following provisions:

529 (2) (a) Materials relating to work performance, discipline, 530 suspension, or dismissal must be reduced to writing and signed 531 by a person competent to know the facts or make the judgment. In 532 cases of separation due to termination or resignation in lieu of

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533 termination, the person shall execute and maintain an affidavit of separation, on the form adopted by the Department of 534 Education, setting forth in detail the facts and reasons for 535 536 such separation. The affidavit must expressly disclose when 537 separation is due to a report of sexual misconduct with a 538 student. The affidavit of separation must be executed under oath 539 and constitutes an official statement within the purview of s. 540 837.06. The affidavit of separation must include conspicuous language that intentional false execution of the affidavit 541 542 constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree The resignation 543 or termination of an employee before an investigation of alleged 544 misconduct by the employee affecting the health, safety, or 545 welfare of a student is concluded must be clearly indicated in 546 the employee's personnel file.

547 Section 9. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended 548 to read:

1012.315 Screening standards Disgualification from 549 550 employment. - A person is ineligible for educator certification or 551 employment in any position that requires direct contact with 552 students in a district school system, charter school, or a 553 private school that participates accepts scholarship students 554 who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 555 1002 if the person is on the disqualification list maintained by 556 the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b), is registered as a 557 sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C), or has 558 been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld 559 for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to of:

560 (1) Any felony offense prohibited under any of the 561 following statutes:

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562	(a) Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with
563	certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such
564	sexual misconduct.
565	(b) Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with
566	certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual
567	misconduct.
568	(c) Section 415.111, relating to adult abuse, neglect, or
569	exploitation of aged persons or disabled adults.
570	(d) Section 782.04, relating to murder.
571	(e) Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated
572	manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated
573	manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an
574	officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a
575	paramedic.
576	(f) Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.
577	(g) Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery.
578	(h) Section 784.075, relating to battery on a detention or
579	commitment facility staff member or a juvenile probation
580	officer.
581	(i) Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.
582	(j) Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment.
583	(k) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a
584	child.
585	(1) Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking,
586	enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or
587	concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending
588	custody proceedings.
589	(m) Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking,
590	enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or

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591	concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending
592	dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse
593	or neglect of a minor.
594	(n) Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or
595	weapons at a school-sponsored event, on school property, or
596	within 1,000 feet of a school.
597	(o) Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an
598	electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon
599	at a school-sponsored event or on school property.
600	(p) Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.
601	(q) Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or
602	solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial
603	authority.
604	(r) Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity
605	with certain minors.
606	(s) Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.
607	(t) Chapter 796, relating to prostitution.
608	(u) Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent
609	exposure.
610	(v) Section 800.101, relating to offenses against students
611	by authority figures.
612	(w) Section 806.01, relating to arson.
613	(x) Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism.
614	(y) Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism.
615	(z) Section 812.014(6), relating to coordinating the
616	commission of theft in excess of \$3,000.
617	(aa) Section 812.0145, relating to theft from persons 65
618	years of age or older.
619	(bb) Section 812.019, relating to dealing in stolen

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620	property.
621	(cc) Section 812.13, relating to robbery.
622	(dd) Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden
623	snatching.
624	(ee) Section 812.133, relating to carjacking.
625	(ff) Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery.
626	(gg) Section 817.563, relating to fraudulent sale of
627	controlled substances.
628	(hh) Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse,
629	or neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.
630	(ii) Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an
631	elderly person or disabled adult.
632	(jj) Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious
633	offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person
634	or disabled person.
635	(kk) Section 826.04, relating to incest.
636	(ll) Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated
637	child abuse, or neglect of a child.
638	(mm) Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the
639	delinquency or dependency of a child.
640	(nn) Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a
641	child.
642	(oo) Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with
643	violence.
644	(pp) Chapter 847, relating to obscenity.
645	(qq) Section 874.05, relating to causing, encouraging,
646	soliciting, or recruiting another to join a criminal street
647	gang.
648	(rr) Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and

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649 control, if the offense was a felony of the second degree or 650 greater severity. (ss) Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with 651 652 certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual 653 misconduct. 654 (tt) Section 944.47, relating to introduction, removal, or 655 possession of contraband at a correctional facility. 656 (uu) Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in 657 juvenile justice programs. 658 (vv) Section 985.711, relating to introduction, removal, or 659 possession of contraband at a juvenile detention facility or commitment program. 660 661 (2) Any misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the 662 following statutes: 663 (a) Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of 664 the offense was a minor. 665 (b) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a child. 666 667 (3) Any criminal act committed in another state or under 668 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an 669 offense prohibited under any statute listed in subsection (1) or 670 subsection (2). 671 (4) Any delinquent act committed in this state or any 672 delinguent or criminal act committed in another state or under 673 federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an 674 individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender 675 List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d. 676 Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 1012.795, Florida 677 Statutes, is amended to read:

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678 1012.795 Education Practices Commission; authority to679 discipline.-

(1) The Education Practices Commission may suspend the 680 681 educator certificate of any instructional personnel or school 682 administrator, as defined in s. 1012.01(2) or (3), for up to 5 683 years, thereby denying that person the right to teach or 684 otherwise be employed by a district school board or public 685 school in any capacity requiring direct contact with students for that period of time, after which the person may return to 686 687 teaching as provided in subsection (4); may revoke the educator 688 certificate of any person, thereby denying that person the right 689 to teach or otherwise be employed by a district school board or 690 public school in any capacity requiring direct contact with 691 students for up to 10 years, with reinstatement subject to 692 subsection (4); may permanently revoke the educator certificate 693 of any person thereby denying that person the right to teach or 694 otherwise be employed by a district school board or public 695 school in any capacity requiring direct contact with students; may suspend a person's educator certificate, upon an order of 696 697 the court or notice by the Department of Revenue relating to the 698 payment of child support; may direct the department to place a 699 certificateholder employed by a public school, charter school, 700 charter school governing board, or private school that 701 participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 702 on the disqualification list maintained by the department 703 pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b) for misconduct that would render 704 the person ineligible pursuant to s. 1012.315 or sexual 705 misconduct with a student; or may impose any other penalty 706 provided by law, if the person:

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707 (a) Obtained or attempted to obtain an educator certificate 708 by fraudulent means.

709 (b) Knowingly failed to report actual or suspected child abuse as required in s. 1006.061 or report alleged misconduct by 711 instructional personnel or school administrators which affects 712 the health, safety, or welfare of a student as required in s. 713 1012.796.

(c) Has proved to be incompetent to teach or to perform duties as an employee of the public school system or to teach in or to operate a private school.

(d) Has been guilty of gross immorality or an act involving 718 moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board of 719 Education, including engaging in or soliciting sexual, romantic, or lewd conduct with a student or minor.

721 (e) Has had an educator certificate or other professional 722 license sanctioned by this or any other state or has had the 723 authority to practice the regulated profession revoked, 724 suspended, or otherwise acted against, including a denial of 725 certification or licensure, by the licensing or certifying 726 authority of any jurisdiction, including its agencies and 727 subdivisions. The licensing or certifying authority's acceptance 728 of a relinquishment, stipulation, consent order, or other 729 settlement offered in response to or in anticipation of the 730 filing of charges against the licensee or certificateholder 731 shall be construed as action against the license or certificate. 732 For purposes of this section, a sanction or action against a 733 professional license, a certificate, or an authority to practice 734 a regulated profession must relate to being an educator or the 735 fitness of or ability to be an educator.

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(f) Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to a misdemeanor, felony, or any other criminal charge, other than a minor traffic violation.

(g) Upon investigation, has been found guilty of personal conduct that seriously reduces that person's effectiveness as an employee of the district school board.

(h) Has breached a contract, as provided in s. 1012.33(2)
or s. 1012.335.

(i) Has been the subject of a court order or notice by the Department of Revenue pursuant to s. 409.2598 directing the Education Practices Commission to suspend the certificate as a result of noncompliance with a child support order, a subpoena, an order to show cause, or a written agreement with the Department of Revenue.

(j) Has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

(k) Has otherwise violated the provisions of law, the penalty for which is the revocation of the educator certificate.

(1) Has violated any order of the Education Practices Commission.

(m) Has been the subject of a court order or plea agreement in any jurisdiction which requires the certificateholder to surrender or otherwise relinquish his or her educator's certificate. A surrender or relinquishment shall be for permanent revocation of the certificate. A person may not surrender or otherwise relinquish his or her certificate prior to a finding of probable cause by the commissioner as provided

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765 in s. 1012.796.

(n) Has been disqualified from educator certification unders. 1012.315.

(o) Has committed a third recruiting offense as determined by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(b).

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(p) Has violated test security as provided in s. 1008.24.Section 11. Paragraphs (a), (b), (d), and (e) of subsection(1) and subsection (5) of section 1012.796, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraph (i) is added to subsection (7), and subsection (10) is added to that section, to read:

1012.796 Complaints against teachers and administrators; procedure; penalties.-

778 (1) (a) The Department of Education shall cause to be 779 investigated expeditiously any complaint filed before it or 780 otherwise called to its attention which, if legally sufficient, 781 contains grounds for the revocation or suspension of a 782 certificate or any other appropriate penalty as set forth in 783 subsection (7). The complaint is legally sufficient if it 784 contains the ultimate facts which show a violation has occurred 785 as provided in s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State 786 Board of Education. The department shall investigate or continue 787 to investigate and take appropriate action on a complaint even 788 though the original complainant withdraws the complaint or 789 otherwise indicates a desire not to cause it to be investigated 790 or prosecuted to completion. The department may investigate or 791 continue to investigate and take action on a complaint filed 792 against a person whose educator certificate has expired if the 793 act or acts that are the basis for the complaint were allegedly

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794 committed while that person possessed an educator certificate 795 <u>and may not issue a certificate to such a person unless an</u> 796 investigation has been completed.

797 (b) The department shall immediately investigate any 798 legally sufficient complaint that involves misconduct by any 799 certificated personnel which affects the health, safety, or 800 welfare of a student, giving the complaint priority over other 801 pending complaints. The department must investigate or continue 802 to investigate and take action on such a complaint filed against 803 a person whose educator certificate has expired if the act or 804 acts that are the basis for the complaint were allegedly 805 committed while that person possessed an educator certificate. 806 The Commissioner of Education shall make a determination of 807 probable cause within 90 days after receipt of any complaint 808 involving sexual misconduct with a student. Upon the written 809 request of a state attorney, this deadline may be held in 810 abeyance during criminal proceedings related to the sexual 811 misconduct with a student.

812 (d)1. Each school district shall file in writing with the 813 department all legally sufficient complaints within 30 days 814 after the date on which subject matter of the complaint comes to the attention of the school district, regardless of whether the 815 816 subject of the complaint is still an employee of the school 817 district. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains 818 ultimate facts that show a violation has occurred as provided in 819 s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. 820 The school district shall include all information relating to 821 the complaint which is known to the school district at the time 822 of filing.



823 2. A school district shall immediately notify the 824 department if the subject of a legally sufficient complaint of 825 misconduct affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student 826 resigns or is terminated before the conclusion of the school 827 district's investigation. Upon receipt of the notification, the 828 department shall place an alert on the person's certification file indicating that he or she resigned or was terminated before 829 830 an investigation involving allegations of misconduct affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student was concluded. In 831 832 such circumstances, the database may not include specific 833 information relating to the alleged misconduct until permitted 834 by subsection (4). This subparagraph does not limit or restrict 835 the duty of the district school board to investigate the 836 complaint and report the findings and conclusion to the 837 department.

838 3. Each district school board shall develop and adopt 839 policies and procedures to comply with this reporting 840 requirement. School board policies and procedures must include standards for screening, hiring, and terminating instructional 841 842 personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01; 843 standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and 844 school administrators; the duties of instructional personnel and 845 school administrators for upholding the standards; detailed 846 procedures for reporting alleged misconduct by instructional 847 personnel and school administrators which affects the health, 848 safety, or welfare of a student; requirements for the 849 reassignment of instructional personnel and or school 850 administrators pending the outcome of a misconduct 851 investigation; and penalties for failing to comply with s.

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852 1001.51 or s. 1012.795. The district school board policies and 853 procedures must shall include appropriate penalties for all 854 personnel of the district school board for nonreporting and 855 procedures for promptly informing the district school 856 superintendent of each legally sufficient complaint. The 857 district school superintendent is charged with knowledge of 858 these policies and procedures and is accountable for the 859 training of all instructional personnel and school administrators of the school district on the standards of 860 861 ethical conduct, policies, and procedures.

4. If the district school superintendent has knowledge of a legally sufficient complaint and does not report the complaint, or fails to enforce the policies and procedures of the district school board, and fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection, in addition to other actions against certificateholders authorized by law, the district school superintendent is subject to penalties as specified in s. 1001.51(12).

870 5. If the superintendent determines that misconduct by 871 instructional personnel or school administrators who hold an 872 educator certificate affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 873 student and the misconduct warrants termination, the 874 instructional personnel or school administrators may resign or 875 be terminated, and the superintendent must report the misconduct 876 to the department in the format prescribed by the department. 877 The department shall maintain each report of misconduct as a 878 public record in the instructional personnel's or school 879 administrators' certification files. This paragraph does not 880 limit or restrict the power and duty of the department to

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881 investigate complaints <u>regarding certificateholders</u>, regardless 882 of the school district's untimely filing, or failure to file, 883 complaints and followup reports. <u>This subparagraph does not</u> 884 <u>create a duty for the department to investigate complaints</u> 885 regarding noncertificateholders.

886 (e) If allegations arise against an employee who is 887 certified under s. 1012.56 and employed in an educator-888 certificated position in any public school, charter school or governing board thereof, or private school that accepts 889 890 scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship 891 program under chapter 1002, the school shall file in writing 892 with the department a legally sufficient complaint within 30 893 days after the date on which the subject matter of the complaint came to the attention of the school, regardless of whether the 894 895 subject of the allegations is still an employee of the school. A 896 complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts 897 that show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.795 898 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. The school 899 shall include all known information relating to the complaint 900 with the filing of the complaint. This paragraph does not limit 901 or restrict the power and duty of the department to investigate 902 complaints, regardless of the school's untimely filing, or 903 failure to file, complaints and followup reports. A school 904 described in this paragraph shall immediately notify the 905 department if the subject of a legally sufficient complaint of 906 misconduct affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student 907 resigns or is terminated before the conclusion of the school's 908 investigation. Upon receipt of the notification, the department 909 shall place an alert on the person's certification file

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910 indicating that he or she resigned or was terminated before an 911 investigation involving allegations of misconduct affecting the 912 health, safety, or welfare of a student was concluded <u>and place</u> 913 <u>the person on the disqualification list maintained by the</u> 914 <u>department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b)</u>. In such circumstances, 915 the database may not include specific information relating to 916 the alleged misconduct until permitted by subsection (4).

917 (5) When an allegation of misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, is 918 919 received, if the alleged misconduct affects the health, safety, 920 or welfare of a student, the district school superintendent in 921 consultation with the school principal, or upon the request of the Commissioner of Education, must, at a minimum, immediately 922 923 suspend the instructional personnel or school administrators 924 from regularly assigned duties, with pay, and remove reassign 925 the suspended personnel or administrators from to positions that 926 may do not require direct contact with students in the district 927 school system. Such suspension shall continue until submission 928 of a legally sufficient complaint. The proceedings and 929 determination of sanctions shall be completed by a school 930 district within 1 year after submission of the legally 931 sufficient complaint the completion of the proceedings and the 932 determination of sanctions, if any, pursuant to this section and s. 1012.795. 933

934 (7) A panel of the commission shall enter a final order 935 either dismissing the complaint or imposing one or more of the 936 following penalties:

(i) Direct the department to place instructional personnel or school administrators on the disqualification list maintained

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939	by the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b) for conduct that
940	would render the person ineligible pursuant to s. 1012.315 or
941	sexual misconduct with a student.
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943	The penalties imposed under this subsection are in addition to,
944	and not in lieu of, the penalties required for a third
945	recruiting offense pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(b).
946	(10) A person on the disqualification list maintained by
947	the department pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b) shall be notified
948	that he or she may not serve or apply to serve as an employee or
949	contracted personnel at a public school or private school that
950	participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002.
951	A person who knowingly violates this provision commits a felony
952	of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
953	775.083.
954	Section 12. Section 1012.797, Florida Statutes, is amended
955	to read:
956	1012.797 Notification of district school superintendent of
957	certain charges against or convictions of employees.—
958	(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(7) or any
959	other provision of law to the contrary, a law enforcement agency
960	shall, within 48 hours, notify the appropriate district school
961	superintendent, charter school governing board, private school
962	owner or administrator, president of the Florida School for the
963	Deaf and the Blind, or university lab schools director or
964	principal, as applicable, when its of the name and address of
965	any employee of the school district who is arrested for charged
966	with a felony or with a misdemeanor involving the abuse of a
967	minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance.

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968 The notification shall include the specific charge for which the 969 employee of the school district was arrested. Notwithstanding 970 ss. 1012.31(3)(a)1. and 1012.796(4), within 24 hours after such 971 notification, the school principal or designee shall notify 972 parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with the 973 employee and include, at a minimum, the name and specific 974 charges against the employee. Such notification shall include 975 other education providers such as the Florida School for the 976 Deaf and the Blind, university lab schools, and private 977 elementary and secondary schools. 978 (2) Except to the extent necessary to protect the health, 979 safety, and welfare of other students, the information obtained 980 by the district school superintendent pursuant to this section 981 may be released only to appropriate school personnel or as 982 otherwise provided by law. 983 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021. 984 985 986 And the title is amended as follows: 987 Delete everything before the enacting clause 988 and insert: 989 A bill to be entitled 990 An act relating to educator conduct; amending s. 991 1001.10, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education 992 to maintain a disgualification list of certain 993 persons; providing for the removal of a person from 994 the list under certain circumstances; requiring the 995 State Board of Education to adopt rules; requiring the 996 department to provide access to specified information

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997 to certain staff for specified purposes; amending s. 998 1001.42, F.S.; providing that certain provisions relating to conduct and prohibition from employment 999 1000 apply to educational support employees; prohibiting 1001 certain employees and personnel from employment under 1002 certain circumstances; requiring district school boards to report specified persons to the department 1003 1004 for inclusion on the list; providing that a school 1005 board official forfeits his or her salary for 1 year 1006 under additional circumstances; amending s. 1001.51, 1007 F.S.; providing that a district school superintendent 1008 forfeits his or her salary for 1 year under additional 1009 circumstances; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; prohibiting 1010 certain individuals from employment at a charter 1011 school; providing requirements for charter schools 1012 relating to employing certain individuals; requiring 1013 the governing board of a charter school to establish 1014 the duty of instructional personnel and school 1015 administrators to report specified alleged misconduct 1016 by certain individuals; prohibiting an individual on the list from employment in specified positions; 1017 1018 requiring a charter school to report specified 1019 individuals to the department for inclusion on a certain list; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; requiring 1020 1021 certain private schools to include educational support 1022 employees in specified policies; requiring certain 1023 private schools to deny employment to certain persons; 1024 prohibiting the employment of certain employees and personnel under circumstances; requiring private 1025



1026 schools to report specified persons to the department 1027 for inclusion on a certain list; authorizing the 1028 Commissioner of Education to permanently revoke an 1029 owner's or operator's authority to establish or 1030 operate a private school in the state under certain 1031 circumstances; amending s. 1006.061, F.S.; revising 1032 the contents of a sign certain educational entities 1033 are required to post to include information relating 1034 to reporting of certain criminal acts; amending s. 1035 1012.27, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain 1036 employment history checks to include a specified 1037 affidavit; amending s. 1012.31, requiring certain 1038 persons to execute and maintain an affidavit of 1039 separation form for specified purposes; providing 1040 requirements for such affidavit; amending s. 1012.315, 1041 F.S.; providing that certain persons are ineligible 1042 for an educator certification or specified employment; 1043 amending s. 1012.795, F.S.; revising acts that warrant 1044 a disciplinary action by the commission; amending s. 1045 1012.796, F.S.; prohibiting the department from 1046 issuing a certificate to certain persons; requiring the commissioner to make a determination of probable 1047 1048 cause within a specified timeframe for complaints 1049 relating to sexual misconduct with a student; 1050 providing for such timeframe to be held in abeyance 1051 under certain circumstances; providing construction; 1052 requiring certain individuals to be placed on a 1053 disqualification list; requiring the commissioner to 1054 remove certain suspended personnel or administrators

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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1055 from certain positions under specified circumstances; 1056 requiring a district school superintendent to 1057 immediately suspend certain individuals and take 1058 specified action as a results of alleged misconduct; 1059 prohibiting certain individuals from serving or 1060 applying to serve in specified positions at public 1061 schools and specified private schools; providing a 1062 timeframe for specified investigations; providing 1063 timeframe for administrative suspension; providing 1064 criminal penalties; amending s. 1012.797, F.S.; 1065 revising provisions relating to notification by law 1066 enforcement of certain charges against employees; 1067 expanding the entities who receive such notifications; 1068 requiring a school principal or designee to notify 1069 certain parents of such notifications within a 1070 specified timeframe; providing minimum requirements 1071 for parental notifications; providing an effective 1072 date.