

CS/HB 1069

2026

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to background screenings of athletic coaches; amending s. 943.0438, F.S.; providing that an independent sanctioning authority is deemed to be a qualified entity for the purpose of participating in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse; authorizing a person who has not undergone certain background screening to act as an athletic coach if he or she is under the direct supervision of an athletic coach who meets certain background screening requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, present subsection (3) is amended, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning authorities.—

(2) (a) An independent sanctioning authority is deemed to be a qualified entity for purposes of participating in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse under s. 435.12.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraphs (3)(a) and (b), a person  
who has not undergone background screening pursuant to this

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26 section may act as an athletic coach if he or she is under the  
27 direct supervision of an athletic coach who meets the background  
28 screening requirements of this section.

29 (4) ~~(3)~~ In a civil action for the death of, or injury or  
30 damage to, a third person caused by the intentional tort of an  
31 athletic coach that relates to alleged sexual misconduct by the  
32 athletic coach, there is a rebuttable presumption that the  
33 independent sanctioning authority was not negligent in  
34 authorizing the athletic coach if the authority complied with  
35 the background screening and disqualification requirements of  
36 subsection (3) ~~(2)~~ prior to such authorization.

37 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.