

CHAPTER 60**(HB 204)**

AN ACT relating to criminal records checks.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 161.148 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section, "volunteers" means adults who assist teachers, administrators, or other staff in public school classrooms, schools, or school district programs, and who do not receive compensation for their work.
- (2) Local school districts may utilize adult volunteers in supplementary instructional and noninstructional activities with pupils under the direction and supervision of the professional administrative and teaching staff.
- (3) Each board of education shall develop policies and procedures that encourage volunteers to assist in school or district programs.
- (4) Each local board of education shall develop and adopt a policy requiring a state criminal records check on all volunteers who have contact with students on a regularly scheduled or continuing basis, or who have supervisory responsibility for children at a school site or on school-sponsored trips. The request for records may be from the Justice Cabinet or the Administrative Office of the Courts, or both, and shall include records of all available convictions as described in KRS 17.160(1). Any request for a criminal records check of a volunteer under this subsection shall be on a form or through a process approved by the Justice Cabinet or the Administrative Office of the Courts. If the cabinet or the Administrative Office of the Courts charges fees, the local board of education shall arrange to pay the cost which may be from local funds or donations from any source including volunteers.
- (5) The local board of education shall provide orientation material to all volunteers who have contact with students on a regularly scheduled or continuing basis, including school policies, safety and emergency procedures, and other information deemed appropriate by the local board of education.
- (6) ***The provisions of this section shall not apply to students enrolled in an educational institution and who participate in observations and educational activities under direct supervision of a local school teacher or administrator in a public school.***

Section 2. KRS 161.042 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall provide through administrative regulation for the utilization of the common schools for the preparation of teacher education students from the colleges and universities.
- (2) Within the provisions established by the Kentucky Board of Education, local boards of education are authorized to enter into cooperative agreements, including financial arrangements, with colleges and universities for the purpose of providing professional laboratory experiences and student teaching experiences for students preparing for the education profession.
- (3) A supervising teacher shall have professional competencies as set out in administrative regulations promulgated by the Education Professional Standards Board. If obtainment of a

degree above the baccalaureate level is required of supervising teachers, the Education Professional Standards Board shall waive the requirement for teachers who have at least twenty (20) years of teaching experience and who have worked as a supervising teacher during the past five (5) years.

- (4) A student teacher who is jointly assigned under agreement by a teacher education institution and a local board of education shall have the same legal status and protection as a certificated teacher employed within the school district and shall be responsible to the administrative staff of the school district and the supervising teacher to whom he is assigned. ***All student teachers shall be subject to the state and national criminal records checks required of certified hires under provisions of KRS 160.380.***
- (5) Teacher education students, other than student teachers, may be permitted through cooperative agreements between the local school district and the teacher education institution, to engage in supplementary instructional activities with pupils under the direction and supervision of the professional administrative and teaching staff of the school district. ***Teacher education students shall not be subject to the criminal records checks required under KRS 161.148 or KRS 160.380.***

Section 3. KRS 160.380 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Relative" shall mean father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.
 - (b) "Vacancy" shall mean any certified position opening created by the resignation, dismissal, nonrenewal of contract, transfer, or death of a certified staff member of a local school district, or a new position created in a local school district for which certification is required. However, if an employer-employee bargained contract contains procedures for filling certified position openings created by the resignation, dismissal, nonrenewal of contract, transfer, or death of a certified staff member, or creation of a new position for which certification is required, a vacancy shall not exist, unless certified positions remain open after compliance with those procedures.
- (2)
 - (a) All appointments, promotions, and transfers of principals, supervisors, teachers, and other public school employees shall be made only by the superintendent of schools, who shall notify the board of the action taken. All employees of the local district shall have the qualifications prescribed by law and by the administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education and of the employing board. Supervisors, principals, teachers, and other employees may be appointed by the superintendent for any school year at any time after February 1 preceding the beginning of the school year. No superintendent of schools shall appoint or transfer himself to another position within the school district.
 - (b) When a vacancy occurs in a local school district, the superintendent shall notify the chief state school officer thirty (30) days before the position shall be filled. The chief state school officer shall keep a registry of local district vacancies which shall be made available to the public. The local school district shall post position openings in the local board office for public viewing.
 - (c) When a vacancy needs to be filled in less than thirty (30) days' time to prevent disruption of necessary instructional or support services of the school district, the

superintendent may seek a waiver from the chief state school officer. If the waiver is approved, the appointment shall not be made until the person recommended for the position has been approved by the chief state school officer. The chief state school officer shall respond to a district's request for waiver or for approval of an appointment within two (2) working days.

- (d) When a vacancy occurs in a local district, the superintendent shall conduct a search to locate minority teachers to be considered for the position. The superintendent shall, pursuant to administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education, report annually the district's recruitment process and the activities used to increase the percentage of minority teachers in the district.
- (e) No relative of a superintendent of schools shall be an employee of the school district. However, this shall not apply to a relative who is a classified or certified employee of the school district for at least thirty-six (36) months prior to the superintendent assuming office, or prior to marrying a relative of the superintendent, and who is qualified for the position the employee holds. A superintendent's spouse who has at least twenty (20) years of service in school systems may be an employee of the school district. A superintendent's spouse who is employed under this provision shall not hold a position in which the spouse supervises certified or classified employees. A superintendent's spouse may supervise teacher aides and student teachers. However, the superintendent shall not promote a relative who continues employment under an exception of this subsection.
- (f) No superintendent shall employ a relative of a school board member of the district, unless on July 13, 1990, the board member's relative is an employee of the district, the board member is holding office, and the relative was not initially hired by the district during the tenure of the board member. A relative employed in 1989-90 and initially hired during the tenure of a board member serving on July 13, 1990, may continue to be employed during the remainder of the board member's term. However, the superintendent shall not promote any relative of a school board member who continues employment under the exception of this subsection.
- (g)
 1. No principal's relative shall be employed in the principal's school, except a relative who is not the principal's spouse and who was employed in the principal's school during the 1989-90 school year.
 2. No spouse of a principal shall be employed in the principal's school, except:
 - a. A principal's spouse who was employed in the principal's school during the 1989-90 school year for whom there is no position for which the spouse is certified to fill in another school operated in the district; or
 - b. A principal's spouse who was employed in the 1989-90 school year and is in a school district containing no more than one (1) elementary school, one (1) middle school, and one (1) high school.
 3. A principal's spouse who is employed in the principal's school shall be evaluated by a school administrator other than the principal.
 4. The provisions of KRS 161.760 shall not apply to any transfer made in order to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

- (3) No superintendent shall employ in any position in the district any person who is a violent offender or has been convicted of a sex crime as defined by KRS 17.165 which is classified as a felony. The superintendent may employ, at his discretion, persons convicted of sex crimes classified as a misdemeanor.
- (4) (a) Beginning January 1, 1999, a superintendent shall require a national and state criminal background check on all new certified hires in the school district ***and student teachers assigned within the district***. Excluded are certified individuals who were employed in another certified position in a Kentucky school district within six (6) months of the date of hire and who had previously submitted to a national and state criminal background check for the previous employment.
- (b) The superintendent shall require that each new certified hire ***and student teacher***, as set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection, submit to a national and state criminal history background check by the Kentucky State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (c) All fingerprints requested under this section shall be on an applicant fingerprint card provided by Kentucky State Police. The fingerprint cards shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation from the Kentucky State Police after a state criminal background check is conducted. The results of the state and federal criminal background check shall be sent to the hiring superintendent. Any fee charged by the Kentucky State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be an amount no greater than the actual cost of processing the request and conducting the search.
- (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may promulgate administrative regulations to impose additional qualifications to meet the requirements of Public Law 92-544.
- (5) A superintendent shall require a state criminal background check on all classified initial hires.
- (a) The superintendent shall require that each classified initial hire submit to a state criminal history background check by the Kentucky State Police.
- (b) Any request for records under this section shall be on an applicant fingerprint card provided by Kentucky State Police. The results of the state criminal background check shall be sent to the hiring superintendent. Any fee charged by the Kentucky State Police shall be an amount no greater than the actual cost of processing the request and conducting the search.
- (6) (a) If a school term has begun and a certified or classified position remains unfilled or if a vacancy occurs during a school term, a superintendent may employ an individual, who will have supervisory or disciplinary authority over minors, on probationary status pending receipt of the criminal history background check. Application for the criminal record of a probationary employee shall be made no later than the date probationary employment begins.
- (b) Employment shall be contingent on the receipt of the criminal history background check documenting that the probationary employee has no record of a sex crime nor as a violent offender as defined in KRS 17.165.
- (c) Notwithstanding KRS 161.720 to 161.800 or any other statute to the contrary, probationary employment under this section shall terminate on receipt by the school

district of a criminal history background check documenting a record of a sex crime or as a violent offender as defined in KRS 17.165 and no further procedures shall be required.

- (d) The provisions of KRS 161.790 shall apply to terminate employment of a certified employee on the basis of a criminal record other than a record of a sex crime or as a violent offender as defined in KRS 17.165.
- (7) (a) Each application or renewal form, provided by the employer to an applicant for a classified position, shall conspicuously state the following: "FOR THIS TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT, STATE LAW REQUIRES A STATE CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT."
- (b) Each application or renewal form, provided by the employer to an applicant for a certified position, shall conspicuously state the following: "FOR THIS TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT, STATE LAW REQUIRES A NATIONAL AND STATE CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT."
- (8) The provisions of subsections (4), (5), (6), and (7) of this section shall apply to a nonfaculty coach or nonfaculty assistant as defined under KRS 161.185.

Approved March 15, 2001