

Introduced by

Senators Hogan, Braunberger, Kreun, Weber

Representative Mitskog

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-11.1-06.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to criminal history record checks for early childhood services providers; and to provide  
3 for a legislative management study.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-11.1-06.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **50-11.1-06.2. Background investigations - Fees.**

8 1. Upon a determination by the department a criminal history record check is appropriate,  
9 the following individuals ~~are to~~shall obtain two sets of the individual's fingerprints from  
10 a law enforcement agency or other local agency authorized to take fingerprints:

11 a. A provider holding or an applicant for early childhood services licensure,  
12 self-declaration, or in-home provider registration;

13 b. Emergency designees and staff members of providers holding and applicants for  
14 early childhood services licensure, self-declaration, or in-home provider  
15 registration; and

16 c. Household members of a residence out of which early childhood services are  
17 provided.

18 2. The department shall ensure access to fingerprinting is readily available for an  
19 individual who is required to obtain fingerprinting under subsection 1. For purposes of  
20 this subsection, "readily available" means ~~within a fifty-mile [80.47-kilometer] radius~~the  
21 department will maintain no fewer than twenty-one staffed fingerprinting stations  
22 across the state, aligning locations to demand and within forty-eight hours of an  
23 individual scheduling a request. The individual shall request the agency to submit the  
24 fingerprints and a completed fingerprint card for each set to the division of children and

1 family services of the department or to the department's authorized agent. The  
2 authorized fingerprinting agency shall submit the completed fingerprints within  
3 twenty-four hours of taking the individual's fingerprints.

4 3. If the division has no record of a determination of services required for child abuse or  
5 neglect, the division shall submit the fingerprints to the bureau of criminal investigation  
6 to determine if there is any criminal history record information regarding the applicant,  
7 household members, or staff members in accordance with section 12-60-24.

8 4. The results of the investigations must be forwarded to the division of children and  
9 family services of the department or to the department's authorized agent.

10 5. The division may charge a fee not to exceed thirty dollars ~~for the purpose of~~  
11 ~~processing to process~~ the application.

12 6. The division is not subject to the fee imposed under section 12-60-16.9 when  
13 requesting criminal history record information from the bureau of criminal investigation.

14 7. An agency that takes fingerprints as provided under this section may charge a  
15 reasonable fee to offset the costs of the fingerprinting.

16 8. The department may use background investigation findings to determine approval,  
17 denial, or revocation of an early childhood services license, self-declaration, or  
18 in-home registration.

19 9. ~~Any~~An individual ~~who is providing early childhood services solely for the provider's~~  
20 ~~own children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins as an in-home provider~~  
21 may not be required to submit to a criminal history record check authorized under  
22 section 50-06-01.9 ~~if:~~

23 ~~a. The~~ the individual is providing early childhood services solely for the provider's  
24 children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or cousins as an in-home provider; ~~or~~

25 ~~b. The individual was subjected to a state-approved criminal history record check~~  
26 ~~for another purpose within the last two years.~~

27 10. Unless an individual was separated from childcare employment for more than one  
28 hundred eighty days, a criminal history record check conducted under this section and  
29 subsection 3 of section 50-06-01.9 is valid for five years, ~~after~~before which the  
30 department shall require another criminal history record check.

1       **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD**

2       **CHECK PROCESS.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider  
3       studying the statewide criminal history record check process. The study may include a  
4       comparison between the statewide and nationwide criminal history record check standards, a  
5       review of the average processing time of a requested criminal history record check, and an  
6       evaluation of methods to improve efficiency and processing times of the statewide criminal  
7       history record check process. The legislative management shall report its findings and  
8       recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
9       the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.