

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session

Senate: ED DP 7-0-1-0 | 3rd Read 28-0-2-0 House: ED DP 6-1-0-3

<u>SB 1558</u>: school employment; criminal convictions; disclosure Sponsor: Senator Bennett, LD 1 House Engrossed

Overview

Instructs a person applying for employment at a school district, charter school or private school (school) to provide disclosure of specified criminal offenses.

<u>History</u>

Charter school personnel who are directly or indirectly engaged in instructional work and other specified charter school-related individuals must have a valid fingerprint clearance card (FCC). All other charter school employees must be fingerprint checked, and the charter school may require these employees to obtain a valid FCC. Furthermore, any person who applies for a certificate issued by the State Board of Education (SBE) must have a valid FCC. School district personnel who are not certificated and personnel who provide services directly to students without being supervised by a certificated employee and who meet other prescribed criteria must be fingerprinted, though the school district may require these employees to obtain a valid FCC. Statute lists the offenses that preclude a person from receiving an FCC, including a dangerous crime against children and offenses that require a person to register as a sex offender (A.R.S. \S <u>15-106</u>, <u>15-183</u>, <u>15-512</u>, <u>15-534</u>, <u>41-1758.03</u>).

A person is guilty of unprofessional conduct if they are convicted of: 1) a dangerous crime against children; 2) sexual abuse or sexual assault of a minor; 3) an act committed in another state or territory that if committed in Arizona would be a dangerous crime against children or sexual abuse or sexual assault of a minor; 4) sexual conduct with a minor; 5) a preparatory offense of these offenses; or 6) any crime that requires sex offender registration. A person convicted of these offenses must have their certificate revoked by SBE or be prohibited from employment at a public school if the person is not certificated (A.R.S. § 15-550).

Provisions

- 1. Requires a person applying for employment by a school to disclose whether they have pled guilty, pled no contest, been convicted of or are awaiting trial on:
 - a) a dangerous crime against children;
 - b) sexual abuse or sexual assault of a minor;
 - c) an act committed in another state or territory that if committed in Arizona would be a dangerous crime against children or sexual abuse or sexual assault of a minor;
 - d) sexual conduct with a minor;
 - e) any crime that requires a person to register as a sex offender; or
 - f) a preparatory offense of these offenses.
- 2. Declares an individual who knowingly violates the requirement to provide disclosure of the specified criminal offenses is guilty of a class 6 felony.
- 3. Defines *school*.

□ Prop 105 (45 votes) □ Prop 108 (40 votes) □ Emergency (40 votes) □ Fiscal Note