

26 | psychometric standards.

27 | (c) Maintain a professional code of ethics and a
28 | disciplinary process that apply to all persons holding child
29 | welfare certification.

30 | (d) Maintain a database, accessible to the public, of all
31 | persons holding child welfare certification, including any
32 | history of ethical violations.

33 | (e) Require annual continuing education for persons
34 | holding child welfare certification.

35 | (f) Administer a continuing education provider program to
36 | ensure that only qualified providers offer continuing education
37 | opportunities for certificateholders.

38 | (g) Review the findings and all relevant records involving
39 | the death of a child or other critical incident following
40 | completion of any reviews by the department, the inspector
41 | general, or the Office of the Attorney General. Such review may
42 | occur only upon the filing of a complaint from an outside party
43 | involving certified personnel. This review shall assess the
44 | certified personnel's compliance with the third-party
45 | credentialing entity's published code of ethical and
46 | professional conduct and disciplinary procedures.

47 | (h) Maintain an advisory committee, including
48 | representatives from each region of the department, each
49 | sheriff's office providing child protective services, and each
50 | community-based care lead agency, who shall be appointed by the

51 organization they represent. The third-party credentialing
 52 entity may appoint additional members to the advisory committee.

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54 Any decision by a third-party credentialing entity to deny,
 55 revoke, or suspend a certification, or otherwise impose
 56 sanctions on a person who is certified, is reviewable by the
 57 department. Upon receiving an adverse determination, the
 58 aggrieved person may request an administrative hearing pursuant
 59 to ss. 120.569 and 120.57(1) within 30 days after completing any
 60 appeals process offered by the third-party credentialing entity
 61 or the department, as applicable.

62 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 415.101, Florida
 63 Statutes, is amended to read:

64 415.101 Adult Protective Services Act; legislative
 65 intent.—

66 (2) The Legislature recognizes that there are many persons
 67 in this state who, because of age or disability, are in need of
 68 protective services. These ~~Such~~ services should allow such
 69 person ~~an individual~~ the same rights as other citizens and, at
 70 the same time, protect the person ~~individual~~ from abuse,
 71 neglect, and exploitation. It is the intent of the Legislature
 72 to provide for the detection and correction of abuse, neglect,
 73 and exploitation through social services and criminal
 74 investigations and to establish a program staffed by persons who
 75 are certified by a third-party credentialing entity approved by

76 | the department to provide ~~of~~ protective services for all
77 | vulnerable adults in need ~~of them~~. It is also the intent of the
78 | Legislature ~~intended~~ that the mandatory reporting of such cases
79 | will cause the protective services of the state to be brought to
80 | bear in an effort to prevent further abuse, neglect, and
81 | exploitation of vulnerable adults. In taking this action, the
82 | Legislature also intends to place the fewest possible
83 | restrictions on personal liberty and the exercise of
84 | constitutional rights, consistent with due process and
85 | protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Further, the
86 | Legislature intends to encourage the constructive involvement of
87 | families in the care and protection of vulnerable adults.

88 | Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.