

Enrolled Senate Bill 757

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to children; amending ORS 329A.030 and 329A.252; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 329A.030 is amended to read:

329A.030. (1) The Office of Child Care shall establish a Central Background Registry and may maintain information in the registry through electronic records systems.

(2)(a) A subject individual shall apply to and must be enrolled in the Central Background Registry as part of the individual's application to operate a program or serve in a position described in subsection (10) of this section.

(b) An individual who has been the subject of a founded or substantiated report of child abuse shall apply to and be enrolled in the Central Background Registry prior to providing any of the types of care identified in ORS 329A.250 (4)(a), (g) or (h) if:

(A) The child abuse occurred on or after January 1, 2017, and involved a child who died or suffered serious physical injury, as defined in ORS 161.015; or

(B) The child abuse occurred on or after September 1, 2019, and involved any child for whom the individual was providing child care, as defined in ORS 329A.250 (4), or care identified in ORS 329A.250 (4)(a), (c), (f), (g), (h) or (i).

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, an individual described in paragraph (b)(B) of this subsection is not required to enroll in the Central Background Registry if more than seven years has elapsed since the date of the child abuse determination.

(3)(a) Upon receiving an application for enrollment in the Central Background Registry, the office shall complete:

(A) A criminal records check under ORS 181A.195;

(B) A criminal records check of other registries or databases in accordance with rules adopted by the Early Learning Council;

(C) A child abuse and neglect records check in accordance with rules adopted by the council; and

(D) A foster care certification check and an adult protective services check in accordance with rules adopted by the council.

(b) In addition to the information that the office is required to check under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the office may consider any other information obtained by the office that the office, by rule, determines is relevant to enrollment in the Central Background Registry.

(4)(a) The office shall enroll the individual in the Central Background Registry if the individual:

(A) Is determined to have no criminal, child abuse and neglect, negative adult protective services or negative foster home certification history, or to have dealt with the issues and provided adequate evidence of suitability for the registry;

(B) Has paid the applicable fee established pursuant to ORS 329A.275; and

(C) Has complied with the rules of the Early Learning Council adopted pursuant to this section.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section and paragraph (a) of this subsection, the office may enroll an individual in the registry if the Department of Human Services has completed a background check on the individual and the individual has received approval from the department for purposes of providing child care.

(5)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the office may not enroll an individual in the Central Background Registry if:

(A) The individual has a disqualifying condition as defined in rules adopted by the council; or

(B) The individual is an exempt prohibited individual, as provided by ORS 329A.252.

(b) If an individual prohibited from enrolling in the registry as provided by this subsection is enrolled in the registry, the office shall remove the individual from the registry.

(6)(a) The office may conditionally enroll an individual in the Central Background Registry pending the results of a nationwide criminal records check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation if the individual has [*met other requirements of the office for enrollment in the registry*] **successfully completed the criminal records check and the child abuse and neglect records check in this state and in the state of the individual's residence, if other than Oregon.**

(b) The office may enroll an individual in the registry subject to limitations identified in rules adopted by the council.

(7) An enrollment in the Central Background Registry may be renewed upon application to the office, payment of the fee established pursuant to ORS 329A.275 and compliance with rules adopted by the Early Learning Council pursuant to this section. However, an individual who is determined to be ineligible for enrollment in the registry after the date of initial enrollment shall be removed or suspended from the registry by the office.

(8)(a) A child care facility shall not hire or employ an individual if the individual is not enrolled in the Central Background Registry.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a child care facility may employ on a probationary basis an individual who is conditionally enrolled in the Central Background Registry.

(9) The Early Learning Council may adopt any rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including but not limited to rules regarding expiration and renewal periods and limitations related to the subject individual's enrollment in the Central Background Registry.

(10) For purposes of this section, "subject individual" means a subject individual as defined by the Early Learning Council by rule, an individual subject to subsection (2)(b) of this section or a person who applies to be:

(a) The operator or an employee of a child care or treatment program;

(b) The operator or an employee of an Oregon prekindergarten program under ORS 329.170 to 329.200;

(c) The operator or an employee of a federal Head Start program regulated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

(d) An individual in a child care facility who may have unsupervised contact with children as identified by the office;

(e) A contractor or an employee of the contractor who provides early childhood special education or early intervention services pursuant to ORS 343.455 to 343.534;

(f) A child care provider who is required to be enrolled in the Central Background Registry by any state agency;

(g) A contractor, employee or volunteer of a metropolitan service district organized under ORS chapter 268 who may have unsupervised contact with children and who is required to be enrolled in the Central Background Registry by the metropolitan service district;

(h) A provider of respite services, as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney under ORS 109.056 who is providing respite services as a volunteer with a private agency or organization that facilitates the provision of such respite services; or

(i) The operator or an employee of an early learning program as defined in rules adopted by the council.

(11)(a) Information provided to a metropolitan service district organized under ORS chapter 268 about the enrollment status of the persons described in subsection (10)(g) of this section shall be subject to a reciprocal agreement with the metropolitan service district. The agreement must provide for the recovery of administrative, including direct and indirect, costs incurred by the office from participation in the agreement. Any moneys collected under this paragraph shall be deposited in the Child Care Fund established under ORS 329A.010.

(b) Information provided to a private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services, as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney under ORS 109.056 about the enrollment status of the persons described in subsection (10)(h) of this section shall be subject to an agreement with the private agency or organization. The agreement must provide for the recovery of administrative, including direct and indirect, costs incurred by the office from participation in the agreement. Any moneys collected under this paragraph shall be deposited in the Child Care Fund established under ORS 329A.010.

(c) Information provided to a private agency or organization about the enrollment status of the persons described in subsection (10)(i) of this section shall be subject to an agreement with the private agency or organization. The agreement must provide for the recovery of administrative, including direct and indirect, costs incurred by the office from participation in the agreement. Any moneys collected under this paragraph shall be deposited in the Child Care Fund established under ORS 329A.010.

SECTION 2. ORS 329A.252 is amended to read:

329A.252. (1) As used in this section, “exempt prohibited individual” means:

(a) An individual whose certification or registration is suspended, has been denied for cause or has been revoked **for cause** under ORS 329A.350.

(b) An individual whose enrollment in the Central Background Registry established by ORS 329A.030 is suspended, has been denied for cause or has been removed **for cause** under ORS 329A.030.

(c) An individual whose certification, registration or enrollment in the Central Background Registry is subject to an emergency order of suspension under ORS 183.430 (2).

(d) An individual who voluntarily surrendered the individual’s certification, registration or enrollment in the Central Background Registry while under investigation by the Office of Child Care or at any time after the Office of Child Care has given notice of an administrative proceeding against the individual or the individual’s child care facility.

(e) An individual to whom the Office of Child Care has issued a final order to cease and desist:

(A) After a contested proceeding; or

(B) That has become effective because the individual did not request a hearing.

(2) For five years following the date on which an individual becomes an exempt prohibited individual, the exempt prohibited individual:

(a) Is ineligible for enrollment in the Central Background Registry; and

(b) May not provide care to a child who is not related to the exempt prohibited individual by blood or marriage within the fourth degree as determined by civil law.

(3) After the five-year period described in subsection (2) of this section, an individual ceases to be an exempt prohibited individual if the individual enrolls in the Central Background Registry.

(4) Notwithstanding the five-year period described in subsection (2) of this section, an individual shall be permanently considered an exempt prohibited individual and shall be permanently subject to the prohibitions described in subsection (2) of this section if the individual:

(a) Has been convicted of, in any state, a crime in which a child suffered serious physical injury, as defined in ORS 161.015, or death; or

(b) Is required to report as a sex offender under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015, 163A.020 or 163A.025 or the laws of another jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by Senate April 19, 2021

.....
Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

.....
Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House June 2, 2021

.....
Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2021

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2021

.....
Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2021

.....
Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State