~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

May 18, 2010

**S. 1078**

Introduced by Senators Jackson, Knotts, Courson, Ryberg, Nicholson, Sheheen, Thomas, Rose, Campbell, Malloy, Ford, L. Martin, Hayes, Verdin, Davis, Leventis and Cromer

S. Printed 5/18/10--H.

Read the first time March 23, 2010.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 44‑7‑264 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE OWNER OF A COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY TO UNDERGO A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK AS A REQUIREMENT OF LICENSURE AND TO ENUMERATE THOSE CRIMES THAT PRECLUDE LICENSURE.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 7, Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 44‑7‑264. (A) To obtain a license to operate a nursing home or a community residential care facility the person, or persons, required to sign the application for licensure pursuant to Section 44‑7‑270 shall undergo a state and national fingerprint‑based criminal records check.

(B)(1) A nursing home license or community residential care facility license must not be issued to the applicant, and if issued, may be revoked, if the person or any one of the persons required to undergo a criminal records check pursuant to subsection (A) is required to register under the sex offender registry pursuant to Section 23‑3‑430 or has been convicted of:

(a) abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult, as defined in Section 43‑35‑10;

(b) any violent crime, as defined in Section 16‑1‑60;

(c) any other drug related felony;

(d) forgery, embezzlement, or breach of trust with fraudulent intent, as classified in Section 16‑1‑90(E); or

(e) a criminal offense similar in nature to the crimes listed in this subsection committed in another jurisdiction or under federal law.

(2) This section does not prohibit obtaining licensure when a conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere for one of the crimes enumerated in this section has been pardoned. However, notwithstanding the entry of a pardon, the department may consider all information available, including the person’s pardoned convictions or pleas and the circumstances surrounding them, to determine whether the applicant is unfit or otherwise unsuited for licensure for a community residential care facility.

(C) Criminal records checks required pursuant to this section must consist of a fingerprint‑based records check conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for the state check and a fingerprint‑based records check conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the national check. An applicant shall submit with the criminal records check application one complete set of the applicant’s fingerprints in a manner specified by SLED. Fingerprints submitted to SLED pursuant to this section must be collected in a manner specified by SLED and must be used to conduct a state criminal records check by SLED and to facilitate a national criminal records check by the FBI. SLED is authorized to retain the fingerprints for licensing purposes and for notification of the department regarding criminal charges. The actual cost of obtaining state and national criminal records checks by SLED and the FBI must be paid by the licensure applicant directly to the required entity as specified by SLED.”

SECTION 2. Section 44‑7‑2910(B)(1) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 301 of 2006, is further amended to read:

“(1) ‘Direct care entity’ means:

(a) a nursing home, as defined in Section 44‑7‑130;

(b) a daycare facility for adults, as defined in Section 44‑7‑130;

(c) a home health agency, as defined in Section 44‑69‑20;

(d) a community residential care facility, as defined in Section 44‑7‑130;

(e) a residential program operated or contracted for operation by the Department of Mental Health or the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs;

(f) residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents;

(g) hospice programs.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑