### 2012 -- S 2904 SUBSTITUTE A

LC02404/SUB A

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# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

#### IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### **JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

#### AN ACT

# RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - NATIONAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK SYSTEM

<u>Introduced By:</u> Senator Michael J. McCaffrey <u>Date Introduced:</u> April 26, 2012 <u>Referred To:</u> Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 12-1-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-1 entitled "Identification
 and Apprehension of Criminals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 12-1-4. Division of criminal identification -- Chief and assistants. - (a) There shall be a division of criminal identification in the department of the attorney general to be in charge of a 4 5 chief who shall be appointed by the attorney general to serve at the pleasure of the attorney 6 general, and who shall devote all of his or her time to the duties of his or her office. The chief 7 with the approval of the attorney general may appoint any assistants that he or she may deem 8 necessary to carry out the work of the division, within the limits of any appropriation made for 9 that purpose, and may with the approval of the attorney general discontinue the employment of 10 any assistants at any time. The chief shall perform the functions required by the provisions of this 11 chapter. In addition to availability of records to law enforcement agencies and officers, the 12 records shall be made available to any attorney of record in any criminal action, and any officials 13 of businesses which are required by federal or state law or regulation to effectuate a criminal 14 background check of potential or prospective employees. The information shall be confidential 15 and shall be used only by the employer for the employee's application of employment.

(b) The department of attorney general may establish and maintain an automated
 fingerprint identification system database that would allow the department to store and maintain
 all fingerprints submitted in accordance with a national criminal records check system. The

1 automated fingerprint identification system database would provide for an automatic notification 2 if and when a subsequent criminal arrest fingerprint card submitted into the system matches a set 3 of fingerprints previously submitted in accordance with a national criminal records check. If the 4 aforementioned arrest results in a conviction, the department shall immediately notify those 5 individuals and entities with which that individual is associated, who are required to be notified of 6 disqualifying information concerning national criminal records checks under these general laws. 7 The information in the database established under this section is confidential and is not subject to 8 disclosure under the access to public records act, chapter 2 of title 38 of the general laws. 9 (c) The department of the attorney general or the department of health shall maintain an 10 electronic web-based system to assist facilities, licensed under chapters 23-17, 23-17.4, 23-17.7.1

or section 23-1-52, required to check relevant registries and conduct criminal records checks of direct patient access applicants. The department of the attorney general or the department of health shall provide for an automated notice, as authorized in subsection 12-1-4(b), to those facilities if a direct patient access employee is subsequently convicted of a disqualifying offense, as described in the relevant licensing statute. The department of the attorney general or the department of health may charge a facility a one-time set up fee of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) for access to the electronic web-based system under this section.

(d) The department of attorney general, the department of health, or an employer who
disqualifies an applicant from employment or continued employment on the basis of a
disqualification notice as described in subsection 12-1-4(c) or of a criminal records check relating
to disqualifying information shall not be liable for civil damages or subject to any claim, demand,
cause of action, or proceeding of any nature as a result of the disqualification.

23 SECTION 2. Section 23-1-52 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1 entitled "Department
 24 of Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 **23-1-52.** Adult day care program licensure. – (a) The director is authorized and 26 directed to establish a program for the licensure of adult day care programs. "Adult day care 27 program" shall mean a comprehensive, nonresidential program designed to address the biological, 28 psychological, and social needs of adults through individual plans of care that incorporate, as 29 needed, a variety of health, social and related support services in a protective setting. The director 30 is further authorized to promulgate regulations as he or she deems necessary to implement these 31 provisions.

(b) Any person seeking employment in any adult day care facility licensed herein and
 having routine contact with an adult day care client or having access to such a client's belongings
 or funds shall undergo a national criminal records check, which shall include fingerprints

1 submitted to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of 2 the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the 3 attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be processed prior to or within one 4 week of employment. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by an adult day 5 care facility and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this section shall be exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment only. 6 7 (1) The director may by rule, identify those positions requiring national criminal records 8 checks. The employee, through the employer, shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification 9 of the department of the attorney general for a national criminal records check. Upon the 10 discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in sections 23-1-52(c) and in accordance 11 with rules promulgated by the director, the bureau of criminal identification of the department of 12 the attorney general shall inform the applicant in writing of the nature of the disqualifying 13 information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, shall notify the 14 employer in writing that disqualifying information has been discovered. 15 (2) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may provide a 16 copy of the national criminal records check to the employer. The administrator shall make a 17 judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee. 18 (3) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau 19 of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant and 20 the employer in writing of this fact. 21 (4) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, 22 evidence that statewide criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking 23 employment between January 1, 2008 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The 24 employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department, evidence that national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 25 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence may be grounds to 26 27 revoke the license or registration of the employer. 28 (5) The employee or employer shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national 29 criminal records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the 30 attorney general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general. 31 (c) Information produced by a national criminal records check pertaining to conviction, 32 for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the 33 applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first 34 degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault, assault on persons

1 sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, 2 rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crimes against nature), felony assault, patient 3 abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug 4 offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect 5 and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony larceny, or felony banking law violations, or a crime under section 1128(a) of the Social Security Act (42 6 7 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying information has been 8 found may provide a copy of the national criminal records check to the employer who shall make 9 a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee. For purposes of this 10 subsection, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of conviction entered by a court 11 subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances where the defendant has 12 entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances 13 where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement with the attorney general. 14 SECTION 3. Section 23-17-34 and 23-17-37 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17 15 entitled "Licensing of Health Care Facilities" is hereby amended to read as follows: 23-17-34. Criminal records review -- Nursing facilities -- Home nursing care 16 17 providers and home care providers. -- (a) Any person seeking employment in a nursing facility, 18 a home nursing care provider, hospice provider or a home care provider which is or is required to 19 be licensed, registered or certified with the department of health if that employment involves 20 routine contact with a patient or resident without the presence of other employees, shall undergo a 21 national criminal background records check which shall include fingerprints submitted to the 22 federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the department of 23 the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the attorney general. 24 The national criminal records check shall to be initiated prior to or within one week of 25 employment. All employees hired prior to the enactment of this section shall be exempted from 26 the requirements of this section. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by a 27 covered facility or provider and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under 28 this chapter shall be exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current 29 employment only. 30 (b) The director of the department of health may by rule identify those positions 31 requiring criminal background records checks. The identified employee, through the employer, 32 shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or local police department of

33 <u>the attorney general</u> for a <u>statewide</u> <u>national</u> criminal records check. Fingerprinting shall not be

in accordance with the rule promulgated by the director of health, <u>or</u> the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department <u>of the attorney general</u> will inform the applicant, in writing, of the nature of the disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, will notify the employer, in writing, that disqualifying information has been discovered.

6 (c) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may request
7 that a provide a copy of the <u>national</u> criminal background report be sent records check to the
8 employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.

9 (d) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau 10 of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general 11 shall inform the applicant and the employer, in writing, of this fact.

(e) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that <u>statewide</u> criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment <del>after</del> <u>between</u> October 1, 1991, <u>and June 30, 2013</u> and the results of the checks. <u>The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health,</u> evidence that national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be grounds to revoke the license or registration of the employer.

(f) It shall be the responsibility of the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department to conduct the criminal records check to the applicant for employment without charge to either the <u>The</u> employee or the employer-<u>shall be responsible for</u> the cost of conducting the national criminal records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.

25 23-17-37. Disqualifying information. -- (a) Information produced by a criminal records 26 review pertaining to conviction, for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee 27 and employer disqualifying the applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, 28 involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree 29 sexual assault, assault on persons sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit 30 specified felonies (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crime 31 against nature) felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first 32 degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony 33 embezzlement, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation 34 of elders, felony larceny, or felony banking law violations or a crime under section 1128(a) of the

social security act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may request that provide a copy of the <u>national</u> criminal background <del>report be sent</del> records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.

5 (b) For purposes of this section, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of 6 conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances 7 where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of 8 probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement 9 with the attorney general.

- SECTION 4. Chapter 23-17 of the General Laws entitled "Licensing of Health Care
  Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 23-17-60. Criminal records review long-term care hospital. -- (a) For the purposes of
   this section, a "long-term care hospital" shall mean a facility as described in 42 U.S.C. section
   1395ww(d)(1)(iv), which receives payment for inpatient services it provides to Medicare
- 15 <u>beneficiaries pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1395ww(m).</u>
- 16 (b) Any person seeking employment in any long-term care hospital having routine 17 contact with a long-term care hospital patient or having access to such a patient's belongings or 18 funds shall undergo a national criminal records check, which shall include fingerprints submitted 19 to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the 20 department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the 21 attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be processed prior to or within one 22 week of employment. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by a long-term 23 care hospital and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this section 24 shall be exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment 25 only. 26 (1) The director may by rule identify those positions requiring national criminal records

27 checks. The employee, through the employer, shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification 28 of the department of the attorney general for a national criminal records check. Upon the 29 discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in subsection 23-17-60(c) and in 30 accordance with the rule promulgated by the director, the bureau of criminal identification of the 31 department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant in writing of the nature of the 32 disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, 33 shall notify the employer in writing that disqualifying information has been discovered.

34 (2) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may provide a

<u>copy of the national criminal records report to the employer. The administrator shall make a</u>
 judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.

3 (3) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau
4 of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant and
5 the employer in writing of this fact.

6 (4) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department, evidence 7 that statewide criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment 8 between October 1, 1991 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The employer shall 9 maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department, evidence that national criminal records 10 checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the 11 results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be grounds to revoke the license 12 or registration of the employer.

(5) The employee or employer shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national
 criminal records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the
 attorney general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.

16 (c) Information produced by a national criminal records check pertaining to conviction, 17 for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the 18 applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first 19 degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault, assault on persons 20 sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, 21 rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crimes against nature), felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug 22 23 offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect 24 and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony larceny, or felony banking law violations, or a crime under section 1128(a) of the Social Security Act (42 25 26 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying information has been 27 found may provide a copy of the national criminal records check to the employer who shall make 28 a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee. For purposes of this 29 subsection, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of conviction entered by a court 30 subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances where the defendant has 31 entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances 32 where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement with the attorney general.

- 33 SECTION 5. Section 23-17.4-27 and 23-17.4-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17.4
- 34 entitled "Assisted Living Residence Licensing Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 23-17.4-27. Criminal records review. -- (a) Any person seeking employment in any 2 assisted living residence licensed under this act and having routine contact with a resident or 3 having access to a resident's belongings or funds shall undergo a national criminal background 4 records check, which shall include fingerprints submitted to the federal bureau of investigation 5 (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the attorney general. The national criminal 6 7 records check shall to be processed prior to or within one week of employment. All employees 8 hired prior to the enactment of this section shall be exempted from the requirements of this 9 section. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by an assisted living residence 10 and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this chapter, shall be 11 exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment only.

12 (b) The director of the department of health may by rule identify those positions 13 requiring <u>national</u> criminal <u>background</u> <u>records</u> checks. The employee, through the employer, 14 shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or local police department of 15 the attorney general for a statewide national criminal records check. Fingerprinting shall not be 16 required. Upon the discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in section 23-17.4-30 17 and in accordance with the rule promulgated by the director of health, the bureau of criminal 18 identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general will inform 19 the applicant in writing of the nature of the disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the 20 nature of the disqualifying information, will notify the employer in writing that disqualifying 21 information has been discovered.

(c) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may request that provide a copy of the <u>national</u> criminal <u>background report be sent records check</u> to the employer. The administrator shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.

(d) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau
of criminal identification (BCI) of the state police or the local police department of the attorney
general shall inform the applicant and the employer in writing of this fact.

(e) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that <u>statewide</u> criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment <u>after between</u> October 1, 1991 <u>and June 30, 2013</u>, and the results of the checks. The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that 1 evidence would he grounds to revoke the license or registration of the employer.

(f) It shall be the responsibility of the bureau of criminal identification (BCI) of the state
police or the local police department to conduct the criminal records check to the applicant for
employment without charge to either the employee or employer. The employee or employer shall
be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal records check through the bureau
of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a vendor designated by the
department of the attorney general.

8 23-17.4-30. Disqualifying information. -- (a) Information produced by a criminal 9 records review pertaining to conviction, for the following crimes will result in a letter to the 10 employee and employer disqualifying the applicant from employment: murder, voluntary 11 manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, 12 third degree sexual assault, assault on persons sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent 13 to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable 14 crime against nature) felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, 15 first degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, 16 felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, 17 exploitation of elders, felony larceny or felony banking law violations or a crime under section 18 1128(a) of the social security act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom 19 disqualifying information has been found may request that provide a copy of the national criminal 20 background report be sent records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding 21 the continued employment of the employee.

(b) For purposes of this section, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement with the attorney general.

SECTION 6. Section 23-17.7.1-17 and 23-17.7.1-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-

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28 17.7.1 entitled "Licensing of Nursing Service Agencies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 <u>23-17.7.1-17. Criminal records review. --</u> (a) Any person seeking employment in a 30 facility which is or is required to be licensed or registered with the department of health if that 31 employment involves routine contact with a patient or resident without the presence of other 32 employees, shall undergo a <u>national</u> criminal <u>background records</u> check, which shall <u>include</u> 33 fingerprints submitted to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal 34 identification of the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be initiated prior to,
or within one week of, employment. All employees hired prior to the enactment of this section
shall be exempted from the requirements of this section. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are
already employed by a covered facility and all persons who, as of such date, already provide
services under this chapter shall be exempt from the requirements of this section for purposes of
their current employment only.

7 (b) The director of the department of health may, by rule, identify those positions 8 requiring <u>national</u> criminal <u>background</u> <u>records</u> checks. The employee, through the employer, 9 shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or local police department of 10 the attorney general for a statewide national criminal records check. Fingerprinting shall not be 11 required. Upon the discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in section 23-17.7.1-20 12 and in accordance with the rule promulgated by the director of the department of health, the 13 bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney 14 general will inform the applicant, in writing, of the nature of the disqualifying information; and, 15 without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, will notify the employer, in 16 writing, that disqualifying information has been discovered.

(c) An employee against whom disqualifying information under section 23-17.7.1-20(b)
has been found may request that provide a copy of the national criminal background report be
sent records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued
employment of the employee.

(d) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau
of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general
shall inform the applicant and the employer, in writing, of this fact.

24 (e) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking 25 employment between October 1, 1991 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The 26 27 employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that 28 national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or 29 after July 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be 30 grounds to revoke the license or registration of the employer. 31 (f) It shall be the responsibility of the bureau of criminal identification of the state police 32 or the local police department to conduct the criminal records check to the applicant for

33 employment without charge to either the employee or the employee. The employee or the

34 <u>employer shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal records check</u>

1 through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a vendor

2 designated by the department of the attorney general.

3 23-17.7.1-20. Disqualifying information. -- (a) Information produced by a criminal 4 records review pertaining to conviction, for the following crimes will result in a letter to the 5 employee and employer disqualifying the applicant from the employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, 6 7 third degree sexual assault, assault on persons sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent 8 to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable 9 crime against nature), felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, first 10 degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony 11 embezzlement, abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation 12 of elders, felony larceny, or felony banking law violations or a crime under section 1128(a) of the 13 social security act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)).

14 (b) Information produced by a <u>national</u> criminal records <u>review</u> <u>check</u> pertaining to 15 convictions for crimes other than those listed in subsection (a) of this section shall entitle, but not 16 obligate the employer to decline to hire the applicant. An employee against whom conviction 17 information related to this subsection has been found may request that provide a copy of the 18 national criminal background report be sent records check to the employer who shall make a 19 determination regarding the continued employment of the employee.

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(c) For purposes of this section "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of 21 conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances 22 where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement 23 24 with the attorney general.

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SECTION 7. The act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

LC02404/SUB A \_\_\_\_\_

#### EXPLANATION

#### BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#### OF

## AN ACT

# RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - NATIONAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK SYSTEM

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1 This act would expand the type of criminal records check required for persons applying

2 to be direct patient access employees in a long-term facility or provider.

3 This act would take effect on July 1, 2013.

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