

# SENATE, No. 1239

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to require criminal history records check for person to serve as official at athletic events sanctioned by association.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/5/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history record checks for certain  
2 sports officials and supplementing chapter 11 of Title 18A of the  
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Criminal history records check” means a determination of  
10 whether a person has a criminal record by cross-referencing that  
11 person’s name and fingerprints with those on file with the Federal  
12 Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, and the State  
13 Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police.

14 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Education.

15 b. The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association  
16 shall request through the commissioner, that the State Bureau of  
17 Identification in the Division of State Police conduct a criminal  
18 history records check on a prospective or current official of any  
19 interscholastic athletics meet, game, or tournament sanctioned by  
20 the association. In conducting the criminal history records check,  
21 the State Bureau of Identification shall examine its own files and  
22 arrange for a similar examination by the Federal Bureau of  
23 Investigation, Identification Division.

24 c. A prospective or current official shall submit his name,  
25 address, fingerprints, and written consent to the association. The  
26 association shall supply this documentation to the commissioner  
27 who shall coordinate the criminal history records check.

28 d. The State Bureau of Identification shall conduct the criminal  
29 history records check upon the commissioner’s receipt of the  
30 written consent to the check of the prospective or current official.  
31 The prospective or current official shall bear the cost for the  
32 criminal history records check, including all costs for administering  
33 and processing the check.

34 e. The commissioner is authorized to exchange fingerprint data  
35 with and receive criminal history record information from the  
36 Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Bureau of  
37 Identification for use in making the determination required by this  
38 section.

39 f. A prospective or current official shall be disqualified from  
40 serving as an official at any interscholastic athletics meet, game, or  
41 tournament sanctioned by the association if the person’s criminal  
42 history records check reveals a record of conviction of any crime or  
43 offense enumerated in section 1 of PL.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1).

44 g. Following qualification to serve as an official pursuant to  
45 this section, the State Bureau of Identification shall immediately  
46 forward to the commissioner any information which the bureau  
47 receives on a charge pending against the official. If the charge is for  
48 one of the crimes or offenses enumerated in section 1 of

1 P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), the commissioner shall notify the  
2 New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the  
3 association shall take appropriate action. If the pending charge  
4 results in conviction, the person shall be disqualified from  
5 continuing to serve as an official.

6 h. A person serving as an official for interscholastic athletics  
7 meets, games, or tournaments sanctioned by the New Jersey State  
8 Interscholastic Athletic Association on the effective date of this  
9 section shall comply with the criminal history record investigation  
10 requirements of this section within 60 days of the effective date of  
11 this section.

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13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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18 This bill requires that a criminal history records check be  
19 conducted on any person who serves as an official for an  
20 interscholastic athletics meet, game, or tournament sanctioned by  
21 the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association  
22 (NJSIAA). Under the bill's provisions, the association is to request  
23 the check through the Commissioner of Education. A prospective  
24 or current official will submit his name, address, and fingerprints to  
25 the NJSIAA which will then forward this documentation to the  
26 commissioner. The bill authorizes the commissioner to exchange  
27 fingerprint data with and receive criminal history record  
28 information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State  
29 Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police.

30 In conducting the check, the State Bureau of Identification will  
31 examine its own files and will arrange for a similar examination by  
32 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division. A  
33 prospective or current official will be disqualified from serving as  
34 an official for any interscholastic athletic events sanctioned by the  
35 NJSIAA if the person's criminal history record information reveals  
36 a record of conviction for a disqualifying crime or offense. The bill  
37 incorporates by reference the list of disqualifying crimes and  
38 offenses applicable to prospective school employees.

39 Following qualification to serve as an official, the State Bureau  
40 of Identification will immediately forward to the commissioner any  
41 information which the bureau receives on a charge pending against  
42 the official. If the charge is for a disqualifying crime or offense, the  
43 commissioner will notify the NJSIAA, and the association will take  
44 appropriate action. If the pending charge results in conviction, the  
45 person will be disqualified from continuing to serve as an official.