

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2332

To amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Child Protection Im-
5 provements and Electronic Life and Safety Security Sys-
6 tems Act of 2015”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) The Integrated Automated Fingerprint
10 Identification System of the Federal Bureau of In-

1 investigation maintains fingerprints and criminal his-
2 tory records on more than 80,000,000 individuals.

3 (2) Congress has worked with the States to
4 make criminal history background checks available
5 to organizations seeking to screen employees and
6 volunteers who work with children, the elderly, and
7 individuals with disabilities, through the National
8 Child Protection Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 5119 et
9 seq.), the Volunteers for Children Act (Public Law
10 105–251; 112 Stat. 1885), the Serve America Act
11 (Public Law 111–13; 123 Stat. 1460), the Adam
12 Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006
13 (Public Law 109–248; 120 Stat. 587), and statutes
14 enacted by 48 States in compliance with Public Law
15 92–544. However, there may still be persons pro-
16 viding care and services to children who fall outside
17 these numerous and broad categories of criminal his-
18 tory background checks authorized by Federal and
19 State law.

20 (3) The electronic life safety and security sys-
21 tems industry provides commercial buildings, public
22 agencies and private residences with alarm, security
23 and central monitoring systems to help prevent
24 crime. These systems may be installed by individual

1 employer-owned companies and other private sector
2 businesses.

3 (4) Although 18 States currently have legisla-
4 tion, enacted under Public Law 92–544, to authorize
5 criminal history background checks on individuals in
6 burglar alarm installation and related professions,
7 most States do not require a criminal history back-
8 ground check. To protect lives and property, individ-
9 uals in the electronic life safety and security systems
10 industry should undergo a State and national crimi-
11 nal history background check.

12 **SEC. 3. BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

13 The National Child Protection Act of 1993 (42
14 U.S.C. 5119 et seq.) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating section 5 as section 6; and

16 (2) by inserting after section 4 the following:

17 **“SEC. 5. PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY**
18 **BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

19 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

20 “(1) the term ‘background check designee’
21 means the entity designated by the Attorney General
22 under subsection (b)(3) to carry out the duties de-
23 scribed in subsection (c);

24 “(2) the term ‘covered entity’ means any busi-
25 ness or organization that—

1 “(A) provides, or licenses, certifies, or co-
 2 ordinates individuals or organizations to pro-
 3 vide, care, care placement, supervision, treat-
 4 ment, education, training, instruction, or recre-
 5 ation to children; or

6 “(B) is in the electronic life and safety se-
 7 curity systems industry;

8 “(3) the term ‘covered individual’ means an in-
 9 dividual—

10 “(A) who has, seeks to have, or may have
 11 unsupervised access to vulnerable populations
 12 served by a covered entity;

13 “(B) who—

14 “(i) is employed by or volunteers with,
 15 or seeks to be employed by or volunteer
 16 with, a covered entity; or

17 “(ii) owns or operates, or seeks to
 18 own or operate, a covered entity; or

19 “(C) who is an employer or employee in
 20 the electronic life and safety security systems
 21 industry;

22 “(4) the term ‘criminal history review designee’
 23 means the entity designated by the Attorney General
 24 under subsection (b)(2) to carry out the criminal
 25 history review program;

1 “(5) the term ‘criminal history review program’
2 means the program established under subsection (d);

3 “(6) the term ‘electronic life safety and security
4 systems industry’ means employers and employees in
5 businesses that provide installation and central mon-
6 itoring of fire and burglar alarm systems to public
7 or private entities, including fire alarms, burglar
8 alarms, closed-circuit television, biometric systems,
9 access control systems, personal emergency response
10 systems, and other crime prevention systems;

11 “(7) the term ‘qualified State program’ means
12 a program of a State authorized agency that pro-
13 vides access to national criminal history background
14 checks, as authorized by Federal or State law;

15 “(8) the term ‘State’ means a State of the
16 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
17 monwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the
18 Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the
19 Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of
20 Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands,
21 and the Republic of Palau; and

22 “(9) the term ‘vulnerable populations’ includes
23 elderly persons, disabled persons, and children.

24 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
 2 is to facilitate widespread access to State and na-
 3 tional criminal history background checks, not other-
 4 wise authorized by Federal or State law, on covered
 5 individuals.

6 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year
 7 after the date of enactment of the Child Protection
 8 Improvements and Electronic Life and Safety Secu-
 9 rity Systems Act of 2015, the Attorney General shall
 10 establish—

11 “(A) policies and procedures to carry out
 12 the duties described in subsection (c); and

13 “(B) a criminal history review program in
 14 accordance with subsection (d).

15 “(3) DESIGNEES.—The Attorney General may
 16 designate 1 or more Federal Government agencies to
 17 carry out the duties described in subsection (c).

18 “(c) ACCESS TO STATE AND NATIONAL BACK-
 19 GROUND CHECKS.—

20 “(1) DUTIES.—The Attorney General shall—

21 “(A) inform covered entities and covered
 22 individuals about how to request State and na-
 23 tional background checks—

24 “(i) for covered entities and covered
 25 individuals located in a State with a quali-

1 fied State program, by referring the cov-
2 ered entity or covered individual to the
3 State authorized agency; or

4 “(ii) for covered entities and covered
5 individuals located in a State without a
6 qualified State program, by providing in-
7 formation on alternative methods of ob-
8 taining a State and national background
9 check;

10 “(B) complete a check of the national
11 criminal history background check system; and

12 “(C) provide information received in re-
13 sponse to such national criminal history back-
14 ground check to the criminal history review des-
15 ignee.

16 “(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—A request for
17 a State and national criminal history background
18 check shall include—

19 “(A) the fingerprints of the covered indi-
20 vidual;

21 “(B) other documents required by State
22 law for a State criminal history background
23 check; and

24 “(C) the appropriate fee.

1 “(3) FEES.—The Attorney General shall, in ad-
 2 dition to the fee for the noncriminal justice national
 3 criminal history background check authorized under
 4 section 534 of title 28, United States Code—

5 “(A) collect a fee to offset the costs of car-
 6 rying out the duties described in subsection (d),
 7 in an amount equal to the cost of conducting
 8 the criminal history review; and

9 “(B) remit such fee to the Federal Bureau
 10 of Investigation.

11 “(d) CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
 13 is to provide covered entities with reliable and accu-
 14 rate information regarding the fitness of covered in-
 15 dividuals to have responsibility for the safety and
 16 well-being of vulnerable populations in their care, or
 17 for the installation and central monitoring of fire
 18 and burglar alarm systems.

19 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Attorney General
 20 or designee shall—

21 “(A) establish procedures to securely re-
 22 ceive criminal history records;

23 “(B) make determinations regarding
 24 whether the criminal history records received in
 25 response to a criminal history background check

1 conducted under this section indicate that the
2 covered individual has a criminal history that
3 may bear on the covered individual's fitness to
4 provide care to vulnerable populations or to in-
5 stall and monitor fire and burglar alarm sys-
6 tems;

7 “(C) convey to the covered entity that sub-
8 mitted the request for a State and national
9 criminal history background check—

10 “(i) the fitness and suitability of the
11 covered individual based solely on the cri-
12 teria described in paragraph (3); and

13 “(ii) instructions and guidance that
14 the covered entity should consult the Equal
15 Employment Opportunity Commission En-
16 forcement Guidance #915.002, dated April
17 25, 2012, ‘Consideration of Arrest and
18 Conviction Records in Employment Deci-
19 sions under Title VII of the Civil Rights
20 Act of 1964’, or any successor thereto,
21 issued by the United States Equal Employ-
22 ment Opportunity Commission.

23 “(3) CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW CRITERIA.—In
24 determining whether a criminal history record indi-
25 cates that a covered individual has a criminal history

1 that may bear on the fitness of the covered indi-
2 vidual to provide care to vulnerable populations or to
3 install and monitor fire and burglar alarm systems,
4 the Attorney General or designee shall employ the
5 criteria used to evaluate individuals under other
6 Federal laws, such as the Volunteers for Children
7 Act (Public Law 105–251; 112 Stat. 1885), the
8 Serve America Act (Public Law 111–13; 123 Stat.
9 1460), and the Adam Walsh Child Protection and
10 Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248; 120 Stat.
11 587).

12 “(4) APPLICATION PROCESSING.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
14 shall establish the process by which a covered
15 entity or a covered individual in a State without
16 a qualified State program may obtain a State
17 and national criminal history background check.

18 “(B) CHALLENGE TO COMPLETENESS OF
19 RECORD.—A covered individual may challenge
20 the completeness of any information in the
21 criminal history record of the individual by con-
22 tacting the Federal Bureau of Investigation
23 under the procedure set out in section 16.34 of
24 title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
25 successor thereto.

1 “(5) PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM.—The Attor-
2 ney General or designee shall determine whether an
3 entity is a covered entity.

4 “(6) PRIVACY OF INFORMATION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any entity authorized
6 to receive or transmit fingerprints or criminal
7 history records under this section—

8 “(i) shall use the fingerprints, crimi-
9 nal history records, or information in the
10 criminal history records only for the pur-
11 poses specifically set forth in this section;
12 and

13 “(ii) shall maintain adequate security
14 measures to ensure the confidentiality of
15 the fingerprints, the criminal history
16 records, and the information in the crimi-
17 nal history records.

18 “(B) RETENTION OF FINGERPRINTS BY
19 THE FBI.—In accordance with State or Federal
20 procedures, for the purpose of providing finger-
21 print verification, criminal investigation or sub-
22 sequent hit notification services, or for the re-
23 tention of criminal history, the Federal Bureau
24 of Investigation may retain any fingerprints

1 submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
2 tion under this section.

3 “(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 this subsection shall be construed to change or re-
5 place any background check program authorized by
6 Federal or State law on the day before the date of
7 enactment of the Child Protection Improvements
8 and Electronic Life and Safety Security Systems Act
9 of 2015.”.

○