

HB 1949 -- BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

SPONSOR: Spencer

This bill requires school districts to ensure background checks, costs for which will be covered by the candidates, are conducted on anyone who files to run for school board in the district.

The candidate must submit a set of fingerprints collected under Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) standards and the fingerprints must be used by the MSHP to search the criminal history repository and then must be forwarded to the FBI for a federal search.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) must distribute fees collected for the background checks to the MSHP.

The school district must report any information discovered through the background check to DESE and the department must release to the general public any information from the school district unless it would violate a court order or any federal, state, or local law.

No school official making a report to DESE nor any official of DESE releasing information to the general public under these provisions will be subject to civil liability for such action.

The background check must be completed before the third Tuesday preceding the school board election. DESE must release the information to the general public before the second Tuesday preceding the school board election.