



# HOUSE BILL 343: Authorize LSC/Criminal Record Checks.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| <b>Committee:</b>     | House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | <b>Date:</b>        | June 24, 2019                 |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Rep. Lewis   | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Jeremy Ray*<br>Staff Attorney |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | Second Edition                                     |                     |                               |

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 343 would authorize, but not require, the Legislative Services Commission (Commission) to obtain, through the Department of Public Safety (Department), criminal history record checks of prospective employees, volunteers, and contractors of the General Assembly. The Department would be authorized to charge the Commission a fee to offset the cost of the record check.*

**CURRENT LAW:** As part of the hiring process, some divisions within the General Assembly conduct State background checks, which do not require specific statutory authority, but there is not uniformity across all divisions. In order to obtain a national criminal background check using the FBI's database, there must be specific statutory authority for fingerprinting and for authorizing an employing agency to exchange fingerprint data directly with the FBI. Numerous State agencies and occupational licensing boards currently have this authority.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The bill would authorize the Legislative Services Commission (LSC) to obtain a fingerprint-based State and national criminal history record check through the State Bureau of Investigation for any prospective employee, volunteer, or contactor who would be under the supervision and control of the Legislative Services Officer (LSO). The report would not be considered a public record, and the LSO would be required to keep all information obtained pursuant to the background check confidential. The bill would permit DPS to charge the General Assembly a fee to offset its cost. A [similar bill](#) passed the House in 2017.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would become effective October 1, 2019.

*\*Trina Griffin, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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