



HOUSE BILL 543: Criminal Background Check For Athlete Agents.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 17, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Charles Smith, Willis, K. Hall, T. Brown	Prepared by:	Greg Roney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H543-CSTMf-13		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 543 would modify the Uniform Athlete Agents Act to require that all applicants for registration or renewal of registration as an athlete agent consent to a criminal history record check.*

Compared to the first edition of House Bill 543, the PCS would make the refusal to submit to a background check an automatic denial of a certificate of registration. The PCS makes a technical change by correcting references to the Secretary of State.

CURRENT LAW: The activities of athlete agents who represent student-athletes in negotiating professional sports services contracts or endorsement contracts are regulated by the Secretary of State (Secretary) under the Uniform Athlete Agents Act (UAAA), Article 9 of Chapter 78C of the General Statutes.

The UAAA requires athlete agents to register with the Secretary and meet certain requirements. The UAAA prohibits, with some exceptions, an individual from acting as an athlete agent without registration. G.S. 78C-90 provides that the Secretary may refuse to issue a certificate of registration if the Secretary determines that the applicant has engaged in conduct that has a significant adverse effect on the applicant's fitness to act as an athlete agent. In making this determination the Secretary may consider several factors, including whether the applicant has been convicted of a crime.

The cost for registration or renewal under the UAAA is \$200.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 543 would modify the UAAA to require that all applicants for registration or renewal of registration as an athlete agent consent to a criminal history record check. Refusal to consent to the criminal history record check constitutes grounds for the Secretary to deny a certificate of registration to an applicant. The cost of this background check and the fingerprinting would be paid by the applicant. The cost of registration or renewal under the UAAA would be increased from \$200 to \$250.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS for House Bill 543 becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for registration or renewal received on or after that date.

Robert Ryan, with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

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