

HCS HBs 296 & 438 -- SCHOOL PERSONNEL

RETIRED SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS (Section 168.036)

Currently, the limitations for members of the Public School Retirement System and the Public Education Employee Retirement Systems ("PSRS/PEERS") to work as a substitute teacher after retirement are waived until June 30, 2025. The bill waives such limitations until June 30, 2030.

BACKGROUND CHECKS (Section 168.133)

This bill requires background checks to be conducted not only on school bus drivers, but also on the drivers of other vehicles owned by school districts and charter schools. For drivers employed or contracted by a pupil transportation company that is under contract with a school district or charter school, the pupil transportation company must conduct the criminal background check.

Currently, school districts must ensure that criminal background checks are conducted for all screened volunteers and employees of the school district that are authorized to have contact with students. The bill extends the same requirements to charter schools and removes specific examples of such screened volunteers and employees.

SCHOOL BUS ENDORSEMENT DRIVERS LICENSE EXAMINATIONS (Sections 302.177, 302.272, and 302.735)

Currently, for persons 70 years and older who have school bus endorsements on their drivers license, the license is issued or renewed for only one year at a time, the renewal fee is waived, the school bus portion of the drivers license examination must be taken annually, and a commercial drivers license with a school bus endorsement must be issued annually.

This bill changes the age for these specific provisions to age 75 or over. The bill also changes the annual requirements to biennial requirements.