



# HOUSE BILL 970: State Controller/Criminal Record Checks.

2016-2017 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Judiciary I	<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2016
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Cleveland, Riddell	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Susan Sitze*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 970 would authorize criminal record checks for any current or prospective employees, volunteers, or contractors of the Office of State Controller.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S741, as introduced by Sen. J. Davis, which is currently in Senate Judiciary II.]

**CURRENT LAW:** Chapter 143B, Article 9, Part 28 of the General Statutes creates and authorizes the Office of the State Controller to maintain the State accounting system and administer the State disbursing system. The Office of the State Controller is headed by the State Controller, who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 970 would direct the State Controller to require a criminal record check for any current and prospective employees, volunteers, or contractors. The criminal record check would be conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI).

- The Office of State Controller would provide the Department of Public Safety (DPS) a criminal record check request, fingerprints, and a consent form signed by the person whose criminal record check is to be performed. DPS would forward the necessary information and fingerprints to the SBI for a search of the State's criminal record file and the SBI would forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for a national criminal history record check.
- The criminal history report would not be a public record and must be kept confidential by the Office of State Controller.
- DPS would be authorized to charge a fee to offset the cost incurred to conduct a criminal record check.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law.

*\*Tawanda Foster, Staff Attorney, contributed substantially to this summary.*

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