

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 294
3 entitled “An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of
4 criminal history records” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5301 is amended to read:

8 § 5301. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 * * *

11 (7) “Listed crime” means any of the following offenses:

12 (A) stalking as defined in section 1062 of this title;

13 (B) aggravated stalking as defined in subdivision 1063(a)(3) or (4)(b)
14 of this title;

15 (C) domestic assault as defined in section 1042 of this title;

16 (D) first degree aggravated domestic assault as defined in section
17 1043 of this title;

18 (E) second degree aggravated domestic assault as defined in section
19 1044 of this title;

20 (F) sexual assault as defined in section 3252 of this title or its
21 predecessor as it was defined in section 3201 or 3202 of this title;

- 1 (G) aggravated sexual assault as defined in section 3253 of this title;
- 2 (H) lewd or lascivious conduct as defined in section 2601 of this title;
- 3 (I) lewd or lascivious conduct with a child as defined in section 2602
- 4 of this title;
- 5 (J) murder as defined in section 2301 of this title;
- 6 (K) aggravated murder as defined in section 2311 of this title;
- 7 (L) manslaughter as defined in section 2304 of this title;
- 8 (M) aggravated assault as defined in section 1024 of this title;
- 9 (N) assault and robbery with a dangerous weapon as defined in
- 10 subsection 608(b) of this title;
- 11 (O) arson causing death as defined in section 501 of this title;
- 12 (P) assault and robbery causing bodily injury as defined in subsection
- 13 608(c) of this title;
- 14 (Q) maiming as defined in section 2701 of this title;
- 15 (R) kidnapping as defined in section 2405 of this title or its
- 16 predecessor as it was defined in section 2401 of this title;
- 17 (S) unlawful restraint in the second degree as defined in section 2406
- 18 of this title;
- 19 (T) unlawful restraint in the first degree as defined in section 2407 of
- 20 this title;

1 (U) recklessly endangering another person as defined in section 1025
2 of this title;

3 (V) violation of abuse prevention order as defined in section 1030 of
4 this title, excluding violation of an abuse prevention order issued pursuant to
5 15 V.S.A. § 1104 (emergency relief) or 33 V.S.A. § 6936 (emergency relief);

6 (W) operating vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other
7 substance with either death or serious bodily injury resulting as defined in
8 23 V.S.A. § 1210(f) and (g);

9 (X) ~~careless or negligent~~ or grossly negligent operation resulting in
10 serious bodily injury or death as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1091~~(b)~~;

11 (Y) leaving the scene of an accident with serious bodily injury or
12 death as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1128(b) or (c);

13 (Z) burglary into an occupied dwelling as defined in subsection
14 1201(c) of this title;

15 (AA) the attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in this section;

16 (BB) abuse (section 1376 of this title), abuse by restraint (section
17 1377 of this title), neglect (section 1378 of this title), sexual abuse (section
18 1379 of this title), financial exploitation (section 1380 of this title), and
19 exploitation of services (section 1381 of this title);

20 (CC) aggravated sexual assault of a child in violation of section
21 3253a of this title;

1 (DD) human trafficking in violation of section 2652 of this title; and
2 (EE) aggravated human trafficking in violation of section 2653 of
3 this title.

4 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 7601 is amended to read:

5 § 7601. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) “Court” means the Criminal Division of the Superior Court.

8 (2) “Criminal history record” means all information documenting an
9 individual’s contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding
10 identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and
11 supervision.

12 (3) “Predicate offense” means a criminal offense that can be used to
13 enhance a sentence levied for a later conviction, and includes operating a
14 vehicle under the influence of alcohol or other substance in violation of
15 23 V.S.A. § 1201, domestic assault in violation of section 1042 of this title,
16 and stalking in violation of section 1062 of this title. “Predicate offense” shall
17 not include misdemeanor possession of marijuana, a disorderly conduct
18 offense under section 1026 of this title, or possession of a controlled substance
19 in violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a), 4231(a), 4232(a), 4233(a), 4234(a),
20 4234a(a), 4234b(a), 4235(b), or 4235a(a).

1 (4) “Qualifying crime” means: any criminal offense that is not an
2 offense listed in subdivision 5301(7) of this title or a violation of 18 V.S.A.
3 § 4231(c), 4233(c), 4233a(b), 4234a(c), or 4230(c), or any offense for which a
4 person has been granted an unconditional pardon from the Governor.

5 ~~(A) a misdemeanor offense that is not:~~

6 ~~(i) a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;~~

7 ~~(ii) an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation~~
8 ~~of chapter 64 of this title;~~

9 ~~(iii) an offense involving violation of a protection order in~~
10 ~~violation of section 1030 of this title;~~

11 ~~(iv) prostitution as defined in section 2632 of this title, or~~
12 ~~prohibited conduct under section 2601a of this title; or~~

13 ~~(v) a predicate offense;~~

14 ~~(B) a violation of subsection 3701(a) of this title related to criminal~~
15 ~~mischief;~~

16 ~~(C) a violation of section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny;~~

17 ~~(D) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary,~~
18 ~~excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision~~
19 ~~1201(b)(2) of this title;~~

20 ~~(E) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4223 related to fraud or deceit;~~

- 1 ~~(F) a violation of section 1802 of this title related to uttering a forged~~
2 ~~or counterfeited instrument;~~
- 3 ~~(G) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a) related to possession of~~
4 ~~marijuana;~~
- 5 ~~(H) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4231(a) related to possession of~~
6 ~~cocaine;~~
- 7 ~~(I) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4232(a) related to possession of LSD;~~
- 8 ~~(J) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4233(a) related to possession of heroin;~~
- 9 ~~(K) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234(a) related to possession of~~
10 ~~depressant, stimulant, and narcotic drugs;~~
- 11 ~~(L) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234a(a) related to possession of~~
12 ~~methamphetamine;~~
- 13 ~~(M) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4234b(a) related to possession of~~
14 ~~ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;~~
- 15 ~~(N) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235(b) related to possession of~~
16 ~~hallucinogenic drugs;~~
- 17 ~~(O) a violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4235a(a) related to possession of~~
18 ~~ecstasy; or~~
- 19 ~~(P) any offense for which a person has been granted an unconditional~~
20 ~~pardon from the Governor.~~

1 (5) “Qualifying felony property offense” means a felony level violation
2 of 9 V.S.A. § 4043 related to fraudulent use, 13 V.S.A. § 1801 related to
3 forgery and counterfeiting, 13 V.S.A. § 1802 related to uttering forged or
4 counterfeited instrument, 13 V.S.A. § 1804 related to counterfeiting paper
5 money, 13 V.S.A. § 1816 related to possession or use of credit card skimming
6 devices, 13 V.S.A. § 2001 related to false personation, 13 V.S.A. § 2002
7 related to false pretenses or tokens, 13 V.S.A. § 2029 related to home
8 improvement fraud, 13 V.S.A. § 2030 related to identity theft, 13 V.S.A.
9 § 2501 related to grand larceny, 13 V.S.A. § 2502 related to petit larceny,
10 13 V.S.A. § 2503 related to larceny from the person, 13 V.S.A. § 2531 related
11 to embezzlement, 13 V.S.A. § 2532 related to officers or servants of
12 incorporated bank, 13 V.S.A. § 2533 related to receiver or trustee, 13 V.S.A.
13 § 2537 related to holding property in official capacity or belonging to the State
14 or a municipality, 13 V.S.A. § 2561 related to receiving stolen property,
15 13 V.S.A. § 2575a related to organized retail theft, 13 V.S.A. § 2577 related to
16 retail theft, 13 V.S.A. § 2582 related to theft of services, 13 V.S.A. § 2591
17 related to theft of rented property, 13 V.S.A. § 2592 related to failure to return
18 a rented or leased motor vehicle, 13 V.S.A. § 3016 related to false claims,
19 13 V.S.A. § 3701 related to unlawful mischief, 13 V.S.A. § 3705 related to
20 unlawful trespass, 13 V.S.A. § 3733 related to mills, dams or bridges,
21 13 V.S.A. § 3761 related to unauthorized removal of human remains,

1 13 V.S.A. § 3767 related to grave markers and ornaments, 13 V.S.A. § 4103
2 related to access to computer for fraudulent purposes, 13 V.S.A. § 4104 related
3 to alteration, damage, or interference, or 13 V.S.A. § 4105 related to theft or
4 destruction.

5 (6) “Subsequent offense” means a crime committed by the person who
6 is the subject of a petition to expunge or seal a criminal history record that
7 arose out of a new incident or occurrence after the person was convicted of the
8 crime to be expunged or sealed.

9 Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 7602 is amended to read:

10 § 7602. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF RECORD,

11 POSTCONVICTION; PROCEDURE

12 (a)(1) A person may file a petition with the court requesting expungement
13 or sealing of the criminal history record related to the conviction if:

14 (A) the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying
15 crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence;

16 (B) the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying
17 conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense;

18 (C) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (g) of this
19 section, the person was convicted of a violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) related
20 to operating under the influence of alcohol or other substance, excluding a
21 violation of that section resulting in serious bodily injury or death to any

1 person other than the operator, or related to operating a school bus with a blood
2 alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more or operating a commercial vehicle with a
3 blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more; or

4 (D) pursuant to the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of this
5 section, the person was convicted under 1201(c)(3)(A) of a violation of
6 subdivision 1201(a) of this title related to burglary when the person was 25
7 years of age or younger, and the person did not carry a dangerous or deadly
8 weapon during commission of the offense.

9 (2) The State's Attorney or Attorney General shall be the respondent in
10 the matter.

11 (3) The court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner
12 and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent
13 shall file the stipulation with the court, and the court shall issue the petitioner
14 an order of expungement and provide notice of the order in accordance with
15 this section.

16 (4) This section shall not apply to an individual licensed as a
17 commercial driver pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 39 seeking to seal or expunge
18 a record of a conviction for a felony offense committed in a motor vehicle as
19 defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4.

20 (b) Qualifying nonpredicate misdemeanors and possession of a controlled
21 substance offenses. For petitions filed to expunge or seal a criminal history

1 record of a nonpredicate misdemeanor offense or a violation of 18 V.S.A.
2 § 4230(a), 4231(a), 4232(a), 4233(a), 4234(a), 4234a(a), 4234b(a), 4235(b), or
3 4235a(a):

4 (1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history
5 record be expunged pursuant to section 7606 of this title if the following
6 conditions are met:

7 (A) At least five years have elapsed since:

8 (i) the date on which the person successfully completed the terms
9 and conditions of the sentence for the conviction satisfied the judgement, or if
10 the person has ~~successfully completed the terms and conditions of an~~
11 indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least five years previously;
12 or

13 (ii) if the person committed a subsequent offense, the date on
14 which the person satisfied the judgment for the subsequent offense, whichever
15 is later.

16 (B) ~~The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new~~
17 ~~incident or occurrence since the person was convicted for the qualifying crime.~~

18 [Repealed.]

19 (C) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.

20 (D) The court finds that expungement of the criminal history record
21 serves the interests of justice.

1 (2) The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the
2 criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the
3 conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), ~~(B)~~, and (C) of this subsection are met and
4 the court finds that:

5 (A) sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of
6 justice than expungement; and

7 (B) the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19
8 years of age.

9 (3) If the respondent stipulates to a petition filed prior to, on, or after the
10 date the offense is eligible for expungement or sealing as set forth in this
11 subsection, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

12 (c) Qualifying predicate misdemeanors. For petitions filed to expunge or
13 seal a criminal history record of a qualifying predicate misdemeanor offense:

14 (1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history
15 record be ~~expunged~~ sealed pursuant to section ~~7606~~ 7607 of this title if the
16 following conditions are met:

17 (A) At least ~~40~~ five years have elapsed since:

18 (i) the date on which the person ~~successfully completed the terms~~
19 ~~and conditions of the sentence for the conviction~~ satisfied the judgement; or

1 (ii) if the person committed a subsequent offense, the date on
2 which the person satisfied the judgement for the subsequent offense, whichever
3 is later.

4 (B) ~~The person has not been convicted of a felony arising out of a~~
5 ~~new incident or occurrence in the last seven years. [Repealed.]~~

6 (C) ~~The person has not been convicted of a misdemeanor during the~~
7 ~~past five years. [Repealed.]~~

8 (D) Any restitution ordered by the court for any crime of which the
9 person has been convicted has been paid in full.

10 (E) After considering the particular nature of any subsequent offense,
11 the court finds that expungement of the criminal history record for the
12 qualifying crime serves the interests of justice.

13 (2) ~~The court shall grant the petition and order that all or part of the~~
14 ~~criminal history record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the~~
15 ~~conditions of subdivisions (1)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this subsection are met~~
16 ~~and the court finds that:~~

17 (A) ~~sealing the criminal history record better serves the interests of~~
18 ~~justice than expungement; and~~

19 (B) ~~the person committed the qualifying crime after reaching 19 years~~
20 ~~of age. A criminal history record sealed pursuant to this subsection (c) shall be~~
21 eligible for expungement pursuant to section 7606 of this title five years after

1 the date on which sealing order is issued if the person does not commit any
2 criminal offense subsequent to the sealed.

3 (3) If the respondent stipulates to a petition filed prior to, on, or after the
4 date the offense is eligible for expungement or sealing as set forth in this
5 subsection, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

6 * * *

7 (g) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section, only
8 petitions to seal may be considered or granted by the court. This subsection
9 shall not apply to an individual licensed as a commercial driver pursuant to
10 23 V.S.A. chapter 39. Unless the court finds that sealing would not be in the
11 interests of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal
12 history record be sealed in accordance with section 7607 of this title if the
13 following conditions are met:

14 (1) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person
15 ~~successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence~~ satisfied the
16 judgment for the conviction, or if the person has ~~successfully completed the~~
17 ~~terms and conditions of~~ an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at
18 least 10 years previously.

19 (2) At the time of the filing of the petition:

20 (A) the person has only one conviction of a violation of 23 V.S.A.
21 § 1201, which shall be construed in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1211; and

1 (B) the person has not been convicted of a ~~crime arising out of a new~~
2 ~~incident or occurrence~~ subsequent offense since the person was convicted of a
3 violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a).

4 (3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.

5 (4) The court finds that sealing of the criminal history record serves the
6 interests of justice.

7 (h) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section,
8 unless the court finds that expungement or sealing would not be in the interests
9 of justice, the court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history
10 record be expunged or sealed in accordance with section 7606 or 7607 of this
11 title if the following conditions are met:

12 (1) At least 15 years have elapsed since the date on which the person
13 ~~successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence~~ satisfied the
14 judgment for the conviction, or the person has ~~successfully~~ completed the
15 ~~terms and conditions~~ of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at
16 least 15 years previously.

17 (2) The person has not been convicted of a ~~crime arising out of a new~~
18 ~~incident or occurrence~~ subsequent offense since the person was convicted of a
19 violation of subdivision 1201(c)(3)(A) of this title.

20 (3) Any restitution ordered by the court has been paid in full.

1 (4) The court finds that expungement or sealing of the criminal history
2 record serves the interests of justice.

3 (i) Qualifying felony property offenses and selling, dispensing, or
4 transporting regulated substances offenses. For petitions filed to expunge or
5 seal a criminal history record of a qualifying felony property offense or a
6 violation of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(b), 4231(b), 4232(b), 4233(b), 4234(b),
7 4234a(b), 4234b(b), 4235(c), or 4235a(b):

8 (1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history
9 record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the following
10 conditions are met:

11 (A) At least eight years have elapsed since:

12 (i) the date on which the person satisfied the judgment for the
13 conviction; or

14 (ii) if the person committed a subsequent offense, the date on
15 which the person satisfied the judgment for the subsequent offense, whichever
16 is later.

17 (B) Any restitution ordered by the court for any crime of which the
18 person has been convicted has been paid in full.

19 (C) After considering the particular nature of any subsequent offense,
20 the court finds that expungement of the criminal history record for the
21 qualifying crime serves the interests of justice.

1 (2) A criminal history record sealed pursuant to this subsection (i) shall
2 be eligible for expungement pursuant to section 7606 of this title eight years
3 after the date on which sealing order is issued if the person does not commit
4 any criminal offense subsequent to the sealed offense.

5 (3) If the respondent stipulates to a petition filed prior to, on, or after the
6 date the offense is eligible for sealing as provided in this subsection, the court
7 may grant the petition to seal without a hearing.

8 (j) Qualifying felonies. For petitions filed to expunge or seal a criminal
9 history record of any other qualifying felony offense not specified in
10 subsection (f), (h), or (i) of this section:

11 (1) The court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history
12 record be sealed pursuant to section 7607 of this title if the following
13 conditions are met:

14 (A) At least 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the person
15 satisfied the judgment for the conviction or, if the person committed a
16 subsequent offense, 10 years from the date on which the person satisfied the
17 judgment for the subsequent offense, whichever is later.

18 (B) Any restitution ordered by the court for any crime of which the
19 person has been convicted has been paid in full.

1 (2) The Judicial Bureau shall report the expungement to the Department
2 of Motor Vehicles within 14 days.

3 (3) The Judicial Bureau shall keep a special index of cases that have
4 been expunged together with the expungement order. The index shall list only
5 the name of the individual convicted or adjudicated of the violation, his or her
6 date of birth, the docket number, and the violation that was the subject of the
7 expungement. All other court documents and records that are subject to an
8 expungement order, whether held by the Judicial Bureau or the Department of
9 Motor Vehicles, shall be destroyed.

10 (4) Upon receiving an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged
11 record, the Judicial Bureau and Department of Motor Vehicles shall respond
12 that “NO RECORD EXISTS.”

13 (c) Policies for implementation. The Court Administrator shall establish
14 policies for implementing this section.

15 Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 4230 is amended to read:

16 § 4230. MARIJUANA

17 (a) Possession and cultivation.

18 (1)~~(A)~~ No person shall knowingly and unlawfully possess more than
19 one ounce of marijuana or more than five grams of hashish or cultivate more
20 than two mature marijuana plants or four immature marijuana plants. A person
21 who violates this subdivision shall be assessed a civil penalty as follows:

1 (A) not more than \$100.00 for a first offense;

2 (B) not more than \$200.00 for a second offense; and

3 (C) not more than \$500.00 for a third or subsequent offense.

4 (2)(A) No person shall knowingly and unlawfully possess more than
5 two ounces of marijuana or more than ten grams of hashish or more than
6 four mature marijuana plants or eight immature marijuana plants. For a first
7 offense under this subdivision ~~(A)~~(2), a person shall be provided the
8 opportunity to participate in the Court Diversion Program unless the prosecutor
9 states on the record why a referral to the Court Diversion Program would not
10 serve the ends of justice. A person convicted of a first offense under this
11 subdivision shall be imprisoned not more than six months or fined not more
12 than \$500.00, or both.

13 (B) A person convicted of a second or subsequent offense of
14 knowingly and unlawfully possessing more than ~~one ounce of marijuana or~~
15 ~~more than five grams of hashish or cultivating more than two mature marijuana~~
16 ~~plants or four immature marijuana plants~~ two ounces of marijuana or more
17 than ten grams of hashish or more than four mature marijuana plants or eight
18 immature marijuana plants shall be imprisoned not more than two years or
19 fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

20 (C) Upon an adjudication of guilt for a first or second offense under
21 this subdivision, the court may defer sentencing as provided in 13 V.S.A.

1 § 7041, except that the court may in its discretion defer sentence without the
2 filing of a presentence investigation report and except that sentence may be
3 imposed at any time within two years from and after the date of entry of
4 deferment. The court may, prior to sentencing, order that the defendant submit
5 to a drug assessment screening, which may be considered at sentencing in the
6 same manner as a presentence report.

7 (3) A person knowingly and unlawfully possessing ~~two~~ eight ounces of
8 marijuana or ~~40 grams~~ 1.4 ounces of hashish or knowingly and unlawfully
9 cultivating more than four mature marijuana plants or eight immature
10 marijuana plants shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not
11 more than \$10,000.00, or both.

12 (4) A person knowingly and unlawfully possessing more than one pound
13 of marijuana or more than 2.8 ounces of hashish or knowingly and unlawfully
14 cultivating more than six mature marijuana plants or 12 immature marijuana
15 plants shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than
16 \$10,000.00, or both.

17 (5) A person knowingly and unlawfully possessing more than 10 pounds
18 of marijuana or more than one pound of hashish or knowingly and unlawfully
19 cultivating more than 12 mature marijuana plants or 24 immature marijuana
20 plants shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years or fined not more than
21 \$500,000.00, or both.

1 (b) The court shall order the expungement of criminal history records of
2 violations of 18 V.S.A. § 4230(a)(1) that occurred prior to July 1, 2020. The
3 process for expunging these records shall be completed not later than July 1,
4 2021.

5 (c) Upon entry of an expungement order, the order shall be legally effective
6 immediately and the person whose record is expunged shall be treated in all
7 respects as if he or she had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the
8 offense. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related
9 to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal
10 proceedings, and probation related to the sentence. The court shall issue the
11 person a certificate stating that the offense for which the person was convicted
12 has been decriminalized and therefore warrants issuance of the order and that
13 its effect is to annul the record of arrest, conviction, and sentence. The court
14 shall provide notice of the expungement to the respondent, Vermont Crime
15 Information Center (VCIC), the arresting agency, and any other entity that may
16 have a record related to the order to expunge. The VCIC shall provide notice
17 of the expungement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime
18 Information Center.

19 (d) In any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or
20 in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, a person may be

1 required to answer questions about a previous criminal history record only with
2 respect to arrests or convictions that have not been expunged.

3 (e) Nothing in this section shall affect any right of the person whose record
4 has been expunged to rely on it as a bar to any subsequent proceedings for the
5 same offense.

6 (f)(1) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged
7 together with the expungement order and the certificate issued pursuant to this
8 chapter. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the
9 offense, his or her date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense
10 that was the subject of the expungement.

11 (2) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (1)
12 of this subsection shall be confidential and shall be physically and
13 electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that
14 limits access to authorized persons.

15 (3) Inspection of the expungement order and the certificate may be
16 permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case. The
17 Administrative Judge may permit special access to the index and the
18 documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to
19 court records.

20 (4) All other court documents in a case that are subject to an
21 expungement order shall be destroyed.

1 (5) The court shall follow policies adopted pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7606
2 in implementing this section.

3 (g) Upon receiving an inquiry from any person regarding an expunged
4 record, an entity shall respond that “NO RECORD EXISTS.”

5 Sec. 8. VERMONT SENTENCING COMMISSION; EXPUNGEMENT OR
6 SEALING OF LISTED CRIMES REPORT

7 During the 2020 legislative interim, the Vermont Sentencing Commission
8 shall consider whether a comprehensive policy that provides an avenue for
9 expungement or sealing of all offenses will serve the interests of justice. On or
10 before October 15, 2020, the Commission shall report to the Joint Legislative
11 Justice Oversight Committee regarding any policy recommendations regarding
12 the expungement and sealing of criminal history records, including a
13 recommendation for whether and how to provide an avenue to seal or expunge
14 all offenses, including the crimes listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) and 18 V.S.A.
15 chapter 84 drug trafficking offenses.

16 Sec. 9. APPROPRIATION

17 In FY21, \$1,075,000.00 is appropriated on a one-time basis from the
18 General Fund, based on availability, to the judiciary to fund additional

1 positions and other itemized costs to assist with compliance with the
2 requirements of this act.

3 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 (a) Sec. 7 (expungement of marijuana criminal history records) and this
5 section shall take effect on passage.

6 (b) The rest of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

7

8

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10 (Committee vote: _____)

11

12

Senator _____

13

FOR THE COMMITTEE