
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 60 (S.12). An act relating to sealing criminal history records

Subjects: Crimes and criminal procedure; criminal history records; sealing

This act amends the chapter adopted by the General Assembly in 2012 that sets forth the process for a person to petition to have a criminal history record sealed or expunged. In general, this section moves from a system of sealing and expungement to one of sealing in most instances, with an expanded list of qualifying crimes, and limited access to sealed records for certain entities that require such records.

The act also requires automatic expungement of records relating to municipal violations two years from the date of satisfaction of the judgment and amends the previously adopted statute requiring expungement of motor vehicle violations to clarify that the statute applies to motor vehicle violations that occur on and after July 1, 2021.

Finally, the act requires that on or before December 15, 2025, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council establish a statewide model policy governing the access and use of sealed criminal history records by Vermont law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the policy is to ensure consistent statewide application of law and practice regarding the access and use of sealed criminal history information for criminal justice purposes under 13 V.S.A. chapter 230, balancing the confidentiality of this information with legitimate criminal justice purposes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025