

Get to know the Clean Slate Legislation

Key points about Clean Slate:

- Michigan has an expungement process, but it is currently limited to people with no more than one felony and two misdemeanors. Getting an expungement is an expensive and confusing process, so only 6.5 percent of people who are eligible even try to get one.
- People able to obtain an expungement see their likelihood of employment increase 11 percent and their income rise 25 percent within two years, according to a University of Michigan study.
- Clean Slate legislation would expand the number of people who qualify for an expungement and automate the expungement process after 10 years.
- Getting an expungement, also known as a set aside, expands economic, education and housing opportunities for people who have been involved with the justice system, as they would now be able to answer “no” when asked if they have a criminal record.

The Clean Slate legislative package:

- Creates a mechanism to **automatically clear** two felonies or up to four misdemeanors from someone's public criminal record after 10 years, if all of the offenses are non-assaultive. HB 4980, Rep. Eric Leutheuser (R-Hillsdale)
- Makes most **traffic offenses eligible** for expungement, HB 4981, Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R-Watervliet)
- Creates a process to **set aside marijuana sentences** for conduct that would have been legal after the 2018 referendum legalizing recreational marijuana. HB 4982, Rep. Luke Meerman (R-Coopersville)
- **Reduces** the misdemeanor **waiting period** to three years and permits petitions to expunge two felonies to be filed after seven years. HB 4983, Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor)
- **Expands the amount of offenses eligible** to be set aside from the current limit of one felony and two misdemeanors to two felonies or up to four misdemeanors, and more if none of the convictions are assaultive. House Bill 4984, Rep. David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids)
- Allows multiple convictions for certain offenses that happened during **“one bad night”** to become eligible for expungement as a single offense. HB 4985, Rep. Sherry Day-Dagnogo (D-Detroit)

The legislation was introduced to the legislature Sept. 9, 2019. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Graham Filler (R-DeWitt).

Questions? Contact John Cooper, Executive Director of Safe & Just Michigan, at 517.258.1134 or john@safeandjustmi.org

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