

Safe & Just
Michigan

Safe & Just Michigan applauds final passage of DUI expungement bills

Bills allowing expungement of some 1st-time DUI convictions go to governor

LANSING — Safe & Just Michigan applauds the Michigan Legislature’s overwhelming (92-16) passage of House Bills 4219-20, which will allow for the expungement of first-offense drunk driving convictions that didn’t result in significant injury or death. Once signed into law, this will be the first time that drunk driving convictions are eligible for expungement in Michigan, bringing DUI offenses under the expanding umbrella of expungeable offenses in our state. This builds upon the success of last fall’s “Clean Slate” law, which has already helped thousands of people in Michigan clear old criminal records.

“These bills represent a long-awaited chance for a fresh start for tens of thousands of Michiganders whose opportunities have been limited by a single old DUI conviction,” Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director **John S. Cooper** said. “Drunk driving is a serious problem in Michigan, but permanently limiting a person’s ability to work and drive based on a one-time, decades-old mistake does not make sense. People who can show that their DUI conviction was a one-time mistake should have an opportunity to make a fresh start.”

The bills still need to be signed by Gov. **Gretchen Whitmer**, and Safe & Just Michigan urges her to do so without delay. Last year, Whitmer declined to sign similar bills into law without an explanation as to why. However, this time around, it’s believed that the bipartisan nature of the bills, their overwhelming support in the Legislature, and the presence of other high-profile supporters — such as Attorney General Dana Nessel — will lead to a different result.

“It’s critically important — and telling — that bills like these have overwhelming bipartisan support,” Cooper said. “We’re especially thankful to the bill sponsors, Reps. **Joseph Bellino** (R-Monroe) and **Tenisha Yancey** (D-Detroit), and to other legislative leaders on this issue, such as Sen. **Ed McBroom** (R-Waucedah Township) and **Graham Filler** (R-DeWitt), who were instrumental in moving these bills (and companion bill SB 400) through the Legislature. They understand that they are working on behalf of all the people of Michigan, and it’s the people of the state who will benefit from these reforms.”

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Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan’s over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.