CLEAN SLATE TEXAS:
STREAMLINING SECOND CHANCES & BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES

SUMMARY

In Texas, we believe in safe communities and second chances. Yet across our state, **millions suffer the far-reaching impacts of a criminal record.** Whether a conviction for a felony or a misdemeanor, a diverted or deferred sentence, or merely an arrest, a criminal record can trigger a net of legal prohibitions and diminished opportunity that have little to do with public safety. Barriers that make it difficult to find gainful employment, secure stable housing, or support a family make it harder to escape the cycle of crime and can be a lifetime burden. When our loved ones, friends, neighbors and community members are barred from fully participating in society and our economy, we all lose out.

Research suggests that clearing records will not create a risk to public safety, and will, in fact, improve public safety by increasing access to jobs, housing, and educational opportunities that promote community re-integration and stability. Studies show that one year after a record has been cleared, people are **11% more likely to be employed and earn 22% higher wages**. That means thriving families, safer communities and fewer taxpayer dollars spent on unemployment benefits and other public assistance.

THE CURRENT SYSTEM FAILS TO DELIVER ON ITS PROMISE

While current Texas law allows people the opportunity to clear certain criminal records, the process is extremely difficult to navigate, preventing the vast majority of eligible individuals from ever obtaining relief and truly moving forward with their lives. It is also limited in scope, leaving behind the many impacted Texans who are living crime-free and deserve a second chance. These obstacles are keeping Texans from getting the relief they need for a fair shot at redemption and access to opportunities to support themselves and their families.

THE SOLUTION: A CLEAN SLATE FOR TEXAS

Clean Slate Texas's vision is to ensure equitable access to second chances. Our record clearance laws should deliver the outcomes that they promise: second chances for people with minor criminal histories. By enacting Clean Slate reforms that automate the record clearance process and expand eligibility, we can ensure that impacted Texans who have turned their lives around receive the relief that they have earned.

Our supporters include: Alliance for Safety and Justice, Clean Slate Inc., R Street, Statewide Leadership Council, Texas Appleseed, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Texas Fair Defense Project, Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Trinity Restoration Ministries

CLEAN SLATE TEXAS:
STREAMLINING SECOND CHANCES & BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES

COALITION BILLS

HB 2684 (Canales)
("Clean Slate Eligibility") will:
- Expand Nondisclosures for Minor Criminal Histories
- Create "Comprehensive Nondisclosures"
- Define "Same Criminal Episode" for Expunctions

HB 3601 (Leach)
("Clean Slate Automation") will:
- Automate record clearance for Texans with first-time, nonviolent misdemeanor offenses after they successfully complete supervision and their charge is dismissed.
- Use technology to automatically identify people entitled to relief so that the person seeking to clear their record will no longer have to initiate the process or pay any fees.

HB 3547 (Allen)
("New Wings") will:
- Expand record sealing eligibility to Texans who have completed their sentences and remained crime-free after a waiting period of up to 10 years, the length of which varies depending on the original conviction.

OTHER RECORD CLEARING BILLS THIS SESSION

NDO Eligibility Expansion:
- HB 45 (J. Johnson)
- HB 309 (Collier)
- HB 870 (Thompson)
- HB 1394 (White)
- HB 4136 (Collier)
- SB 1391 (West)
- SB 1872 (Miles)

Expunction Eligibility Expansion:
- HB 109 (Canales)
- HB 1104 (Dominguez)
- HB 1203 (Wu)
- HB 1332 (Canales)
- HB 1944 (Crockett)
- HB 2388 (Crockett)
- HB 3022 (Herrero)

HELP US WIN A CLEAN SLATE FOR TEXAS

Clean Slate Texas was formed in 2020 and represents a broad statewide coalition of organizations and stakeholders that share a common mission: to advance policy that fosters equitable opportunity by reforming the Texas record clearance process. Join Us! For more information, see: cleanslatetexas.org