

STATE OF NEW YORK

7551

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 5, 2023

Introduced by Sen. MYRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law, the correction law, the judiciary law and the civil rights law, in relation to automatic sealing of certain convictions

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. Almost fifty years ago, New York
2 enacted anti-discrimination protections for individuals with a prior
3 criminal conviction. In his approval message, Governor Carey noted that
4 the expense and time involved in prosecuting and incarcerating an indi-
5 vidual is largely wasted "if upon the individual's return to society his
6 willingness to assume a law abiding and productive role is frustrated by
7 senseless discrimination" and further noted that providing a formerly
8 incarcerated individual "a fair opportunity for a job is a matter of
9 basic human fairness as well as one of the surest ways to reduce crime."
10 He also noted that the legislation in no way required the hiring of
11 someone with a criminal record but provided reasonable standards to be
12 applied when considering the employment of such an individual, and that
13 merely having a criminal record could not be the sole basis for denying
14 employment. While New York has made great strides in fighting discrimi-
15 nation - on the basis of many attributes, experiences, and circumstances
16 of New Yorkers - discrimination on the basis of past convictions still
17 persists.
18 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to further curb this
19 discrimination by sealing from public access the conviction records of
20 individuals for certain state convictions only after an individual has
21 satisfied their sentence and the required period of time has passed,
22 within which the individual has remained a law abiding citizen while
23 ensuring that this otherwise sealed conviction information will remain
24 accessible for law enforcement and other relevant and necessary

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11746-02-3

purposes. These relevant and necessary purposes include but are not limited to determining suitability for licensing, employment and similar activities where federal or state law requires a criminal background check be performed prior to granting licenses to or employing individuals in certain jobs, such as employment with children, elderly populations, or other vulnerable populations, as well as where federal or state law authorizes a criminal background check to be performed prior to the same type of employment or similar activity.

It is further the intent of the legislature that this legislation shall not have any impact on, nor will it change the access to, information regarding out of state or federal conviction information for law enforcement purposes or any other person or entity, including prospective employers, accessing an individual's criminal history through criminal background checks or through publicly accessible records.

§ 2. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section 160.57 to read as follows:

§ 160.57 Automatic sealing of convictions.

1. Convictions for certain traffic infractions or a crime defined in the laws of this state shall be sealed in accordance with this section as follows:

(a) Convictions for subdivision one of section eleven hundred ninety-two of the vehicle and traffic law shall be sealed after three years.

(b) Criminal convictions shall be sealed upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

(i) for a misdemeanor conviction, at least three years have passed from the defendant's release from incarceration or the imposition of sentence if there was no sentence of incarceration. If the defendant is subsequently convicted of a crime before a prior conviction is sealed pursuant to this section, the calculation of time for such prior conviction shall start upon the same date as the time calculation starts for the subsequent criminal conviction;

(ii) for a felony conviction, at least eight years have passed from the date the defendant was last released from incarceration for the sentence of the conviction eligible for sealing or from the imposition of sentence if there was no sentence of incarceration. A defendant's detention for an alleged violation of parole or post-release supervision shall not interfere with the time calculation prescribed herein unless and until supervision is revoked resulting in the defendant's reincarceration. If the defendant is subsequently convicted of a crime before a prior conviction is sealed pursuant to this section, the calculation of time for such prior conviction shall start upon the same date as the time calculation starts for the subsequent criminal conviction;

(iii) the defendant does not have a subsequent criminal charge pending in this state;

(iv) the defendant is not currently under the supervision of any probation or parole department for the conviction eligible for sealing;

(v) the conviction is not for an offense defined as a sex offense or sexually violent offense under section one hundred sixty-eight-a of the correction law;

(vi) the conviction is not for a class A felony offense defined in the penal law, other than class A felony offenses defined in article two hundred twenty of the penal law;

(vii) the defendant is a natural person;

(viii) the defendant does not have a subsequent felony charge pending in another jurisdiction that is not a felony charge related to reproductive or gender affirming care or the possession of cannabis which would

1 not constitute a felony in New York. This subparagraph shall apply if
2 and when appropriate federal authorities grant access to records neces-
3 sary to query to effectuate the purposes of this subparagraph in an
4 automated manner; and

5 (ix) the defendant does not have a subsequent felony conviction in
6 another jurisdiction in the preceding eight years that is not a felony
7 conviction related to reproductive or gender affirming care or the
8 possession of cannabis which would not constitute a felony in New York.
9 This subparagraph shall apply if and when appropriate federal authori-
10 ties grant access to records necessary to query to effectuate the
11 purposes of this subparagraph in an automated manner.

12 (c) If, after the applicable period of time for the sealing of a
13 conviction has been satisfied, the conviction remains ineligible for
14 sealing pursuant to subparagraphs (iii), (iv), (viii) or (ix) of para-
15 graph (b) of this subdivision, the office of court administration shall
16 subsequently check for eligibility no less than quarterly and upon
17 subsequent checks, or the receipt of a form in accordance with paragraph
18 (dd) of subdivision two of section two hundred twelve of the judiciary
19 law, the conviction shall be sealed if all other conditions for sealing
20 under this section are satisfied.

21 (d) In accordance with all other applicable laws, rules, and regu-
22 lations regarding the scope, access, use, disclosure, confidentiality
23 and retention of criminal history information, records of convictions
24 sealed pursuant to this section including photographs, photographic
25 plates or proofs, palmprints, fingerprints or retina scans shall not be
26 accessed by or made available to any person or public or private agency,
27 except for:

28 (i) the defendant and such defendant's counsel;

29 (ii) any court, defense counsel or prosecutor for the purposes of a
30 pending criminal proceeding or proceedings brought in a criminal court
31 pursuant to article six-C of the correction law;

32 (iii) qualified agencies, as defined in subdivision nine of section
33 eight hundred thirty-five of the executive law, federal and state law
34 enforcement agencies, and interstate and international authorities as
35 defined in subdivision three of section two of the public authorities
36 law, when acting within the scope of their law enforcement duties;

37 (iv) the court, prosecutor, and defense counsel if the defendant
38 becomes a witness in a criminal proceeding;

39 (v) the court and parties if the defendant becomes a witness or party
40 in a civil proceeding;

41 (vi) when an individual is a defendant in a criminal proceeding or
42 proceedings brought in a criminal court pursuant to article six-C of the
43 correction law and the sealed records of conviction of a third party are
44 integral to their defense. In such instances, use of sealed records of
45 conviction shall be requested upon ex parte motion in any superior
46 court, or in any district court, city court or the criminal court of the
47 city of New York provided that such court is where the action is pend-
48 ing. The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court
49 that the records will be used for the purpose of this subparagraph;

50 (vii) individuals or entities that are required by state law, federal
51 law or regulation, or a local law in effect one year prior to the chap-
52 ter of the laws of two thousand twenty-three that added this section, to
53 request and receive a fingerprint-based check of criminal history infor-
54 mation. Nothing herein shall prohibit the commissioner of education or
55 the office of school personnel review and accountability from receiving
56 or using convictions sealed pursuant to this section for purposes of

subdivisions seven, seven-a and seven-b of section three hundred five of the education law;

(viii) pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, individuals or entities authorized by state law, federal law or regulation, or a local law in effect one year prior to the chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-three that added this section to request and receive a fingerprint-based check of criminal history information. Such regulations shall include entities authorized to request and receive such information in relation to the individual's fitness to have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children or adolescents, elderly individuals, individuals with disabilities, or otherwise vulnerable populations;

(ix) any prospective employer of a police officer or peace officer as those terms are defined in subdivisions thirty-three and thirty-four of section 1.20 of this chapter, in relation to an application for employment as a police officer or peace officer, provided, however, that every person who is an applicant shall be furnished with a copy of all records obtained under this paragraph and afforded an opportunity to make an explanation thereto;

(x) any federal, state or local officer or agency with responsibility for the issuance of licenses to possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun or with responsibility for conducting background checks before transfer or sale of a firearm or explosive, when the officer or agency is acting pursuant to such responsibility. This includes the criminal justice information services division of the federal bureau of investigation, for the purposes of responding to queries to the national instant background check system regarding attempts to purchase or otherwise take possession of firearms, rifles or shotguns, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921 (A)(3);

(xi) for the purposes of civilian investigation or evaluation of a civilian complaint or civil action concerning law enforcement or prosecution actions, upon ex parte motion in any superior court, or in any district court, city court or the criminal court of the city of New York provided that such court sealed the record; the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court that the records will be used for the purposes of this subparagraph;

(xii) for information provided to an individual or entity pursuant to paragraph (e) of subdivision four of section eight hundred thirty-seven of the executive law or for bona fide research purposes provided all identifying information is removed;

(xiii) when an individual seeks to avail themselves of a public program or benefit, including but not limited to an immigration benefit, for which the sealed records of conviction of a third party are otherwise authorized by law or legal process to be disclosed in furtherance of their application for such program or benefit. In such instances, the individual or their attorney shall request the use of sealed records pursuant to a form as prescribed by the chief administrator of the courts pursuant to paragraph (ee) of subdivision two of section two hundred twelve of the judiciary law;

(xiv) for the purpose of collection of restitution, reparation, fines, surcharges, or fees imposed. In such instances, use of sealed records shall be requested upon ex parte motion in any superior court, or in any district court, city court, town court, village court, or criminal court of the city of New York provided that such court is where the action is pending. The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court that the records will be used for the purpose of this subparagraph;

1 (xv) transportation network companies that are required or authorized
2 by state law to request criminal history information pursuant to section
3 sixteen hundred ninety-nine of the vehicle and traffic law;

4 (xvi) the state education department for the purposes of investigating
5 professional misconduct as defined in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a)
6 of subdivision five of section sixty-five hundred nine of the education
7 law, consideration of restoration of a professional license pursuant to
8 section sixty-five hundred eleven of the education law, or determi-
9 nations for issuing a license to practice a profession or issuing
10 certificates and privileges for which prior licensure is required, for
11 the professions under articles one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thir-
12 ty-one-b, one hundred thirty-two, one hundred thirty-three, one hundred
13 thirty-four, one hundred thirty-five, one hundred thirty-six, one
14 hundred thirty-seven, one hundred thirty-nine, one hundred forty, one
15 hundred forty-one, one hundred forty-three, one hundred forty-four, one
16 hundred forty-five, one hundred forty-seven, one hundred forty-nine, one
17 hundred fifty-three, one hundred fifty-four, one hundred fifty-five, one
18 hundred fifty-six, one hundred fifty-seven, one hundred fifty-eight, one
19 hundred sixty, one hundred sixty-three, one hundred sixty-four, and one
20 hundred sixty-seven as such professions are defined in title eight of
21 the education law, provided that the state education department certi-
22 fies to the division of criminal justice services that it is investigat-
23 ing an individual licensed to practice a profession pursuant to article
24 one hundred thirty of the education law for professional misconduct as
25 defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision five of section sixty-five
26 hundred nine of the education law, considering restoration of a profes-
27 sional license pursuant to section sixty-five hundred eleven of the
28 education law, or making a determination for issuing a license to prac-
29 tice a profession or issuing certificates and privileges for which prior
30 licensure is required as appropriate. Provided, further, that the board
31 of regents may consider any prior conviction that formed the basis of a
32 determination of the board of regents in a disciplinary proceeding
33 pursuant to section sixty-five hundred ten of the education law and the
34 rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto in an application for
35 reconsideration, even if such conviction later becomes sealed pursuant
36 to this section; and

37 (xvii) the office of mental health and the office for people with
38 developmental disabilities, where such agencies are statutorily author-
39 ized to receive such information, provided further, that such informa-
40 tion may also be made available for case review under section 10.05 of
41 the mental hygiene law, as well as to providers licensed, funded, desig-
42 nated, certified or otherwise authorized by the office of mental health
43 or the office for people with developmental disabilities, where such
44 information is included in the clinical record of any person under the
45 care of or receiving services from such provider or program.

46 (e) Where the sealing required by this section has not taken place,
47 including where supporting court records cannot be located or have been
48 destroyed, and a defendant or their attorney submits a valid form in
49 accordance with paragraph (dd) of subdivision two of section two hundred
50 twelve of the judiciary law of such fact to the office of court admin-
51 istration, such conviction shall be sealed as set forth in this subdivi-
52 sion within thirty days of the receipt of such form.

53 (f) The department of corrections and community supervision, in coor-
54 dination with the division of criminal justice services, shall provide
55 the office of court administration with the data necessary to determine
56 appropriate records to be sealed pursuant to this section, including but

1 not limited to (i) the date or dates of release from state incarceration
2 of individuals who have a sentence of incarceration for a felony
3 conviction, and (ii) the date or dates of initial parole or post-release
4 supervision and corresponding date or dates of discharge, as applicable.

5 (g) The chief administrative officer of each local correctional facil-
6 ity shall provide the office of court administration with the data
7 necessary to determine appropriate records to be sealed pursuant to this
8 section, including but not limited to the date or dates of release of
9 individuals who have satisfied a definite sentence of imprisonment.

10 2. Upon the sealing of a conviction pursuant to this section the
11 office of court administration shall immediately notify the division of
12 criminal justice services, the court of conviction, county clerks and
13 the heads of all appropriate police and sheriff departments, prosecu-
14 tors' offices and law enforcement agencies that the conviction is
15 sealed. Upon receipt of such notification, records of or relating to
16 such conviction shall be immediately sealed as follows:

17 (a) Every photograph of the defendant and photographic plates or
18 proof, and all palmprints, fingerprints and retina scans taken or made
19 of the defendant in regard to the sealed conviction, and all duplicates,
20 reproductions, and copies thereof, except a digital fingerprint that is
21 on file with the division of criminal justice services for a conviction
22 that has not been sealed pursuant to this section, shall be marked as
23 sealed by any entity notified under this subdivision having any such
24 photograph, photographic plate or proof, palmprint, fingerprints or
25 retina scan in its possession or under its control by conspicuously
26 indicating on the face of the record or at the beginning of the digi-
27 tized file of the record that the record has been designated as sealed.

28 (b) Every official record and paper and duplicates and copies thereof,
29 including, but not limited to, judgments and orders of a court but not
30 including published court decisions or opinions or records and briefs on
31 appeal, relating to the sealed conviction, on file with the entity noti-
32 fied under this subdivision shall be marked as sealed by conspicuously
33 indicating on the face of the record or at the beginning of the digi-
34 tized file of the record that the record has been designated as sealed.

35 (c) Entities subject to the requirements of this subdivision shall not
36 use or access such sealed information unless otherwise authorized pursu-
37 ant to this section or any other section of law.

38 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with the
39 applicable laws, rules and regulations requiring the division of crimi-
40 nal justice services to administer and maintain criminal history records
41 as set forth in article thirty-five of the executive law.

42 3. (a) Nothing in this section requires the sealing or destruction of
43 DNA information maintained in the New York state DNA database, in
44 accordance with article forty-nine-B of the executive law, of an indi-
45 vidual whose conviction is sealed under this section.

46 (b) Nothing in this section requires the sealing or destruction of
47 records maintained by the department of motor vehicles, and nothing in
48 this section shall be construed to contravene the vehicle and traffic
49 law, the federal driver's privacy protection act (18 U.S.C 2721 et.
50 seq.), the REAL ID Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-13; 49 U.S.C. 30301
51 note), section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention
52 Act of 1986 (49 U.S.C. 31311), the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act
53 of 1986 (Public Law 99-570; 49 U.S.C. 313), the Motor Carrier Safety
54 Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-159), or regulations promulgated
55 pursuant to any such chapter or act.

1 (c) The division of criminal justice services is authorized to
2 disclose a conviction that is sealed pursuant to this section to enti-
3 ties that are required by federal law, or by rules and regulations
4 promulgated by a self-regulatory organization created under federal law,
5 to consider sealed convictions. Such entities must certify to the divi-
6 sion that they are required by federal law, or by rules and regulations
7 promulgated by a self-regulatory organization that has been created
8 under federal law, to make an inquiry about or consider records sealed
9 pursuant to this section for purposes of employment, licensing, or
10 clearance. To the extent permitted by federal law, a record sealed
11 pursuant to this section may not be considered a conviction that would
12 prohibit the employment, licensing or clearance of the defendant.

13 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit entities required by feder-
14 al law to consider sealed convictions, or by rules and regulations
15 promulgated by a self-regulatory organization that has been created
16 under federal law, from making an inquiry about or considering an appli-
17 cant's criminal history for purposes of employment, licensing, or clear-
18 ance from inquiring into convictions sealed pursuant to this section.

19 (e) In any civil action, an official record of a conviction that has
20 been sealed pursuant to this section may not be introduced as evidence
21 of negligence against a person or entity that provided employment,
22 contract labor or services, volunteer work, licensing, tenancy, a home
23 purchase, a mortgage, an education, a loan, or insurance if such record
24 was sealed and was not provided to the person or entity by or on behalf
25 of a governmental entity in accordance with this section in response to
26 such person's or entity's authorized and timely request for conviction
27 history information.

28 (f) A person or entity described in this subdivision, acting reason-
29 ably and in good faith, may not have a duty to investigate the fact of a
30 prior conviction that has been sealed pursuant to this section.

31 4. No defendant shall be required or permitted to waive eligibility
32 for sealing pursuant to this section as part of a plea of guilty,
33 sentence or any agreement related to a conviction for a violation of the
34 laws of this state. Any such waiver is void and unenforceable.

35 5. Sealing as set forth in subdivision two of this section is without
36 prejudice to a defendant or their attorney seeking further relief pursu-
37 ant to article four hundred forty of this chapter. Nothing in this
38 section is intended or shall be interpreted to diminish or abrogate any
39 rights or remedies otherwise available to the defendant.

40 6. The office of court administration shall make diligent efforts to
41 promptly seal all conviction records eligible for sealing under this
42 section where such convictions were entered on or before the effective
43 date of this section and, in any event, shall ensure sealing of such
44 convictions is complete no later than three years after such effective
45 date.

46 7. A conviction which is sealed pursuant to this section is included
47 within the definition of a conviction for the purposes of any criminal
48 proceeding in which the fact of a prior conviction would enhance a
49 penalty or is an element of the offense charged.

50 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit sealing of a
51 conviction before the expiration or termination of a sentence of incar-
52 ceration, parole, probation, or post-release supervision for such
53 conviction.

54 9. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect or invalidate
55 any active order of protection issued in relation to a conviction sealed
56 under this section.

10. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or authorize the discharge of the requirement to pay any restitution, reparation, fines, surcharges, or fees imposed for a conviction sealed under this section or the sealing of a criminal or civil proceeding for the collection of any such amount due, unless such proceeding is otherwise eligible for sealing under this section or any other provision of law.

§ 3. Section 845-d of the executive law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 4 and 5 to read as follows:

4. Nothing in this section shall authorize the division to provide criminal history information that is sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law to an entity other than those authorized by such section to receive such information.

5. Except as otherwise required by law, every entity that receives criminal history information for civil purposes shall provide or ensure the provision of a copy of such criminal history information to every individual for whom such information is received with a copy of article twenty-three-A of the correction law, and that such individual be informed of their right to seek correction of any incorrect information contained in such information pursuant to the regulations and procedures established by the division of criminal justice services.

§ 4. Subdivision 2 of section 212 of the judiciary law is amended by adding two new paragraphs (dd) and (ee) to read as follows:

(dd) Promulgate a standardized form and process for individuals to notify the office of court administration of convictions subject to sealing under section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, but for which the office has not sealed or taken the requisite action for related records.

(ee) Promulgate a standardized form and process for individuals authorized to request sealed records pursuant to subparagraph (xiii) of paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law.

§ 5. Subdivision 16 of section 296 of the executive law, as amended by section 2 of subpart 0 of part II of chapter 55 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

16. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice, unless specifically required or permitted by statute, for any person, agency, bureau, corporation or association, including the state and any political subdivision thereof, to make any inquiry about, whether in any form of application or otherwise, or to act upon adversely to the individual involved, any arrest or criminal accusation of such individual not then pending against that individual which was followed by a termination of that criminal action or proceeding in favor of such individual, as defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of the criminal procedure law, or by an order adjourning the criminal action in contemplation of dismissal, pursuant to section 170.55, 170.56, 210.46, 210.47, or 215.10 of the criminal procedure law, or by a youthful offender adjudication, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.59 or 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, except where such conviction record is accessed pursuant to subparagraph (vii), (viii), or (xvi) of paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, in connection with the licensing, housing, employment, including volunteer positions, or providing of credit or insurance to such individual;

provided, further, that no person shall be required to divulge information pertaining to any arrest or criminal accusation of such individual not then pending against that individual which was followed by a termination of that criminal action or proceeding in favor of such individual, as defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of the criminal procedure law, or by an order adjourning the criminal action in contemplation of dismissal, pursuant to section 170.55 or 170.56, 210.46, 210.47 or 215.10 of the criminal procedure law, or by a youthful offender adjudication, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.58 or 160.59 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, except where such conviction record is accessed pursuant to subparagraph (vii), (viii), or (xvi) of paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law. An individual required or requested to provide information in violation of this subdivision may respond as if the arrest, criminal accusation, or disposition of such arrest or criminal accusation did not occur. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the licensing activities of governmental bodies in relation to the regulation of guns, firearms and other deadly weapons or in relation to an application for employment as a police officer or peace officer as those terms are defined in subdivisions thirty-three and thirty-four of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law; provided further that the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to an application for employment or membership in any law enforcement agency with respect to any arrest or criminal accusation which was followed by a youthful offender adjudication, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.58 or 160.59 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law. For purposes of this subdivision, an action which has been adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, pursuant to section 170.55 or 170.56, 210.46, 210.47 or 215.10 of the criminal procedure law, shall not be considered a pending action, unless the order to adjourn in contemplation of dismissal is revoked and the case is restored to the calendar for further prosecution.

§ 6. Section 9 of the correction law, as added by section 2 of part 00 of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, the section heading as amended by chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

§ 9. Access to information of incarcerated individuals via the internet. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any information relating to the conviction of a person[~~, except for a person convicted of an offense that would make such person ineligible for merit time under section eight hundred three of this chapter or an offense for which registration as a sex offender is required as set forth in subdivision two or three of section one hundred sixty-eight-a of this chapter,~~] that is posted on a website maintained by or for the department, under article six of the public officers law, may be posted on such website for a period not to exceed [~~five~~] three years after the expiration of such person's sentence of imprisonment and at the conclusion of any period of parole or post-release supervision[~~; provided, however, that in the case of a person who has been committed to the department on~~

~~more than one occasion, the department may post conviction information relating to any prior commitment on such website for a period not to exceed five years after the expiration of such person's sentence of imprisonment and any period of parole or post-release supervision arising from the most recent commitment to the department].~~

§ 7. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 50-g to read as follows:

§ 50-g. Disclosure of convictions sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law. 1. Any person who has had a conviction sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law may bring a cause of action for damages against a party who, without consent of such person, discloses such sealed conviction where: (a) the respondent owed such person a duty of care pursuant to such section; (b) the respondent knowingly and willfully breached such duty; (c) the disclosure caused injury to such person; and (d) respondent's breach of that duty was a substantial factor in the events that caused the injury suffered by such person. The provisions of this section are in addition to, but shall not supersede, any other rights or remedies available in law or equity.

2. For purposes of this section, a party owes a duty of care to a person who has had a conviction sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law when the party is under an obligation pursuant to subdivision two of such section to seal information, records, documents or papers related to such conviction, or when the party obtains access to records of such conviction for a specified purpose pursuant to paragraph (d) of subdivision one, or subdivision three of such section.

§ 8. Severability. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person, corporation or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

§ 9. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.