

5169

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 6, 2015

Introduced by Sen. NOZZOLIO -- (at request of the Office of Court Administration) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, the criminal procedure law and the executive law, in relation to the sealing of records following conviction for certain offenses

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 750 of the correction law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 6 to read as follows:
3 (6) "CONVICTION OF ONE OR MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSES" MEANS A CONVICTION
4 OR CONVICTIONS THAT HAS OR HAVE NOT BEEN SEALED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE
5 HUNDRED SIXTY OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW; AND A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN
6 "CONVICTED OF ONE OR MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSES" MEANS A PERSON WHOSE
7 CONVICTION OR CONVICTIONS HAS OR HAVE NOT BEEN SEALED PURSUANT TO SUCH
8 ARTICLE. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT APPLY TO A
9 CONVICTION WHERE USE OF SUCH CONVICTION FOR A PURPOSE SPECIFIED IN
10 SUBDIVISION SIXTEEN OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SIX OF THE EXECUTIVE
11 LAW WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE PURSUANT TO
12 SUCH SUBDIVISION.
13 S 2. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 160.55 of the
14 criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 169 of the laws of 1994,
15 is amended to read as follows:
16 Upon the termination of a criminal action or proceeding CHARGING AN
17 OFFENSE against a person by the conviction of such person of a traffic
18 infraction or a violation, other than a violation of loitering as
19 described in paragraph (d) [or (e)] of subdivision one of section 160.10
20 of this [chapter] ARTICLE or the violation of operating a motor vehicle
21 while ability impaired as described in subdivision one of section eleven
22 hundred ninety-two of the vehicle and traffic law, unless the district
23 attorney upon motion with not less than five days notice to such person

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

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1 or his or her attorney demonstrates to the satisfaction of the court
2 that the interests of justice require otherwise, or the court on its own
3 motion with not less than five days notice to such person or his or her
4 attorney determines that the interests of justice require otherwise and
5 states the reasons for such determination on the record, the clerk of
6 the court wherein such criminal action or proceeding was terminated
7 shall immediately notify the commissioner of the division of criminal
8 justice services and the heads of all appropriate police departments and
9 other law enforcement agencies that the action has been terminated by
10 such conviction. Upon receipt of notification of such termination:

11 S 3. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section
12 160.65 to read as follows:

13 S 160.65 SEALING THE RECORD OF A CONVICTION.

14 1. PETITION FOR SEALING; WHEN PETITION MAY BE MADE. SUBJECT TO THE
15 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY PETITION A SUPERIOR COURT TO
16 SEAL THE RECORD OF HIS OR HER CONVICTION FOR A PAST CRIMINAL OFFENSE OR
17 OFFENSES PROVIDED HE OR SHE HAS BROUGHT NO SUCH PETITION IN THE PRECED-
18 ING TWO YEARS AND:

19 (A) SUCH PERSON HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF NOT MORE THAN ONE CRIME, AT
20 LEAST TEN YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE SUCH PERSON WAS CONVICTED OF THAT
21 CRIME AND THAT CRIME WAS A FELONY OFFENSE OTHER THAN (I) A VIOLENT FELONY
22 OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 70.02 OF THE PENAL
23 LAW, (II) ANY OFFENSE FOR WHICH A TERM OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT IS AUTHOR-
24 IZED, (III) AN OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OR TWO
25 HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE OF THE PENAL LAW, (IV) AN OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN ARTI-
26 CLE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE OR TWO HUNDRED OF THE PENAL LAW WHERE THE
27 PETITIONER WAS A PUBLIC SERVANT AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE, (V) AN
28 OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO OF THE VEHICLE
29 AND TRAFFIC LAW, OR (VI) ANY CRIME SPECIFIED IN THE PENAL LAW FOR WHICH
30 A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO OF THE
31 VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT; OR

32 (B) SUCH PERSON HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY, AT LEAST SEVEN
33 YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE SUCH PERSON WAS LAST CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR
34 AND HE OR SHE HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF NOT MORE THAN TWO MISDEMEANORS
35 NEITHER OF WHICH WAS (I) AN OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED
36 THIRTY OR TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE OF THE PENAL LAW, (II) AN OFFENSE
37 SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE OR TWO HUNDRED OF THE PENAL
38 LAW WHERE THE PETITIONER WAS A PUBLIC SERVANT AT THE TIME OF THE
39 OFFENSE, OR (III) AN OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED NINE-
40 TY-TWO OF THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING,
41 IN NO EVENT MAY A PERSON BRING A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS HE
42 OR SHE HAS COMPLETED ANY AND ALL SENTENCES HE OR SHE RECEIVED ON ACCOUNT
43 OF SUCH CONVICTION OR CONVICTIONS. WHERE A PERSON HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF
44 A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER FEDERAL LAW OR THE LAW OF ANOTHER STATE, AND
45 SUCH CONVICTION WOULD CONSTITUTE A FELONY UNDER THE PENAL LAW OF THIS
46 STATE, SUCH PERSON MAY NOT BRING A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION; AND
47 WHERE SUCH CONVICTION WOULD CONSTITUTE A MISDEMEANOR, IT SHALL BE COUNT-
48 ED FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH AS IF IT WERE A MISDEMEANOR UNDER THE
49 PENAL LAW OF THIS STATE.

50 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON SHALL HAVE COMPLETED A SENTENCE
51 WHEN HE OR SHE HAS SERVED IN FULL ANY TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AND FINISHED
52 ANY TERM OR PERIOD OF PAROLE, PROBATION, CONDITIONAL RELEASE AND
53 POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION; MADE ALL REQUIRED RESTITUTION; COMPLETED ALL
54 REQUIRED COMMUNITY SERVICE; PAID ALL FINES AND SURCHARGES ASSESSED,
55 INCLUDING THOSE THAT WERE DEFERRED AND MADE SUBJECT TO COLLECTION IN THE
56 SAME MANNER AS A CIVIL JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION

420.40 OF THIS CHAPTER; AND OTHERWISE SATISFIED ALL CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE SENTENCING COURT. FURTHER, THE PERIODS OF TIME SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE TOLLED BY ANY PERIOD FROM THE DATE OF SENTENCE TO THE DATE WHEN THE PETITIONER WAS LAST RELEASED FROM ANY PERIOD OF INCARCERATION ON ACCOUNT OF THE CONVICTION OR CONVICTIONS FOR WHICH SEALING IS SOUGHT.

NO PERSON MAY BRING A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION WHILE ANY CHARGED CRIMINAL OFFENSE IS PENDING AGAINST HIM OR HER AND NO PERSON MAY HAVE MORE THAN ONE SUCH PETITION GRANTED DURING HIS OR HER LIFETIME. THE RIGHT TO BRING A PETITION HEREUNDER MAY NOT BE WAIVED.

2. COURT TO WHICH PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION MUST BE BROUGHT; FILING FEE; RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COURT. (A) A PETITION TO SEAL THE RECORD OF A CONVICTION FOR A CRIMINAL OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION MUST BE BROUGHT IN THE SUPERIOR COURT IN WHICH THE CONVICTION WAS ENTERED. A PETITION TO SEAL THE RECORD OF A CONVICTION FOR A CRIMINAL OFFENSE SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION MUST BE BROUGHT IN A SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE COURT IN WHICH THE CONVICTION WAS ENTERED IS LOCATED OR, IF THE PETITION IS TO SEAL THE RECORDS OF MORE THAN ONE SUCH CONVICTION, THE PETITION MAY BE BROUGHT IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ANY COUNTY IN WHICH A COURT IN WHICH ONE OR MORE OF SUCH CONVICTIONS WAS ENTERED IS LOCATED. NO COURT MAY ACCEPT A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A FILING FEE OF NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS PAYABLE TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, SUCH FEE MAY BE WAIVED WHERE, DUE TO THE PETITIONER'S INDIGENCE, PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE WOULD WORK AN UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP ON THE PERSON OR HIS OR HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

(B) THE SUPERIOR COURT THAT RECEIVES A PETITION UNDER PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL REQUEST FROM THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AN UPDATED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD OF THE PETITIONER, INCLUDING ANY SEALED OR SUPPRESSED INFORMATION. UPON RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST, THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE A CRIMINAL HISTORY REPORT AND SHALL ALSO PROVIDE A REPORT FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REGARDING ANY CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION THAT OCCURRED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS. THE DIVISION IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUCH INFORMATION FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR THIS PURPOSE.

(C) (1) PROVIDED THE PETITION COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION AND THE PETITIONER HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OFFENSE, THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION AND IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, MAY GRANT THE PETITION AND ORDER THE SEALING OF THE RECORDS OF THE PETITIONER'S CONVICTION OR MAY DISMISS THE PETITION. IF, HOWEVER, THE PETITIONER HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY FELONY OFFENSE, THE COURT MUST GRANT THE PETITION AND ORDER THE SEALING OF THE RECORDS OF ALL OF THE PETITIONER'S CONVICTIONS FOR OFFENSES WITHIN THE MEANING OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 10.00 OF THE PENAL LAW. WHERE THE COURT GRANTS A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COURT MUST ALSO ORDER THE SEALING OF THE RECORDS OF ANY NON-CRIMINAL OFFENSE SCHEDULED IN THE PETITION THAT IS MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS OLD.

(2) WHERE THE COURT HAS DISCRETION TO GRANT OR DISMISS A PETITION PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IT MUST, BEFORE MAKING ITS DETERMINATION, NOTIFY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PETITIONER WAS CONVICTED OF A FELONY AND ADVISE THAT THE COURT IS CONSIDERING SEALING THE RECORDS OF THAT CONVICTION. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY MUST BE GIVEN A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY, WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS NOR MORE THAN SIXTY DAYS, IN WHICH TO COMMENT AND SUBMIT

1 MATERIALS TO AID THE COURT IN DETERMINING THE PETITION. THE DISTRICT
2 ATTORNEY MUST PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE VICTIM, IF ANY, OF THE PETITION FOR
3 SEALING BY MAILING WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE VICTIM'S LAST-KNOWN ADDRESS.
4 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "VICTIM" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO HAS
5 SUSTAINED PHYSICAL OR FINANCIAL INJURY TO PERSON OR PROPERTY AS A DIRECT
6 RESULT OF A FELONY THE RECORD OF WHICH THE PETITIONER IS ASKING THE
7 COURT TO SEAL.

8 (3) AT THE REQUEST OF THE PETITIONER OR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF A
9 COUNTY WHO RECEIVES NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH TWO OF THIS
10 PARAGRAPH, OR IN ITS OWN DISCRETION, THE COURT MAY CONDUCT A HEARING TO
11 CONSIDER AND REVIEW ANY RELEVANT EVIDENCE, INCLUDING TESTIMONY OF
12 WITNESSES, OFFERED BY EITHER PARTY THAT WOULD AID THE COURT IN DETERMIN-
13 ING WHETHER TO ORDER THE SEALING OF THE RECORDS OF THE PETITIONER'S
14 CONVICTIONS.

15 (4) WHERE THE COURT HAS DISCRETION TO GRANT OR DISMISS A PETITION
16 PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IT MUST CONSIDER ANY
17 RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: (I) THE CIRCUMSTANCES
18 AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENSE THAT RESULTED IN THE CONVICTION; (II) THE
19 CHARACTER OF THE PETITIONER, INCLUDING WHAT STEPS HE OR SHE HAS TAKEN
20 SINCE THE TIME OF HIS OR HER OFFENSE TOWARD PERSONAL REHABILITATION,
21 INCLUDING TREATMENT, WORK, SCHOOL, OR OTHER PERSONAL HISTORY THAT DEMON-
22 STRATES REHABILITATION; (III) THE PETITIONER'S CRIMINAL HISTORY; (IV)
23 THE IMPACT OF SEALING THE PETITIONER'S RECORDS UPON HIS OR HER REHABILI-
24 TATION AND HIS OR HER SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE REENTRY AND REINTE-
25 GRATION INTO SOCIETY, AND UPON PUBLIC SAFETY; AND (V) ANY STATEMENTS
26 MADE BY ANY VICTIM OF AN OFFENSE COMMITTED BY THE PETITIONER WHERE THERE
27 WAS IN FACT A VICTIM OF SUCH OFFENSE.

28 (5) WHEN A COURT ORDERS THE SEALING OF THE RECORD OF A PETITIONER'S
29 CONVICTION OR CONVICTIONS, THE CLERK OF SUCH COURT SHALL IMMEDIATELY
30 NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES,
31 THE HEADS OF ALL APPROPRIATE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND ALL OTHER LAW
32 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND ANY COURT THAT SENTENCED THE PETITIONER
33 FOLLOWING CONVICTION OF AN OFFENSE THE RECORD OF WHICH MUST BE SEALED,
34 OF SUCH ORDER. THEREUPON, ALL OFFICIAL RECORDS AND PAPERS RELATING TO
35 THE PETITIONER'S ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS, INCLUDING ALL
36 DUPLICATES AND COPIES THEREOF, ON FILE WITH THE DIVISION OR ANY COURT
37 SHALL BE SEALED AND NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY PERSON OR PUBLIC OR
38 PRIVATE AGENCY; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THE DIVISION SHALL RETAIN ANY FINGER-
39 PRINTS, PALMPRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE SAME.

40 (6) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH FIVE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, RECORDS
41 SEALED PURSUANT TO SUCH SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO: (I) THE
42 PETITIONER OR HIS OR HER DESIGNATED AGENT; (II) QUALIFIED AGENCIES, AS
43 DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION NINE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE OF THE
44 EXECUTIVE LAW, AND FEDERAL AND STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WHEN
45 ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES; (III) ANY STATE
46 OR LOCAL OFFICER OR AGENCY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
47 LICENSES TO POSSESS GUNS, WHEN THE PETITIONER HAS MADE AN APPLICATION
48 FOR SUCH A LICENSE; (IV) ANY PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER OF A POLICE OFFICER OR
49 PEACE OFFICER AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SUBDIVISIONS THIRTY-THREE
50 AND THIRTY-FOUR OF SECTION 1.20 OF THIS CHAPTER, IN RELATION TO AN
51 APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT AS A POLICE OFFICER OR PEACE OFFICER,
52 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT EVERY PERSON WHO IS AN APPLICANT FOR THE POSI-
53 TION OF POLICE OFFICER OR PEACE OFFICER SHALL BE FURNISHED WITH A COPY
54 OF ALL RECORDS OBTAINED UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH AND AFFORDED AN OPPORTU-
55 NITY TO MAKE AN EXPLANATION THEREOF; (V) THE JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE
56 PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, IN RELATION TO PERFORMING ITS

1 DUTIES UNDER ARTICLE TWENTY OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW; AND (VI) SUCH OTHER
2 AND FURTHER OFFICERS, INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES, PUBLIC OR
3 PRIVATE, THAT EMPLOY PERSONS WHO THEREBY HAVE REGULAR CONTACT WITH CHIL-
4 DREN OR OTHER VULNERABLE PERSONS AS THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
5 COURTS MAY DESIGNATE, INCLUDING ALL OFFICERS, INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS
6 AND AGENCIES SUBJECT TO OPERATION, LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION BY A STATE
7 OVERSIGHT AGENCY AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION FOUR OF SECTION FIVE HUNDRED
8 FIFTY OF THE EXECUTION LAW OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT OR REGU-
9 LATION BY THE JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL
10 NEEDS.

11 3. DETERMINATION TO BE IN WRITING. ANY DETERMINATION GRANTING OR
12 DISMISSING A PETITION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION MUST
13 BE IN WRITING AND, WHERE THE COURT HAS DISCRETION TO MAKE SUCH DETERMI-
14 NATION, SHALL STATE THE REASONS FOR THAT DETERMINATION.

15 4. NO RELIEF OF DISABILITIES. A DETERMINATION GRANTING A PETITION
16 PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT RELIEVE THE PETI-
17 TIONER OF ANY FORFEITURE OR DISABILITY, OR REMOVE ANY BAR TO HIS OR HER
18 EMPLOYMENT, AUTOMATICALLY IMPOSED BY LAW BY REASON OF HIS OR HER
19 CONVICTION OF THE OFFENSE THE RECORDS OF WHICH ARE THEREBY SEALED
20 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, A PETITION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION FOR SEALING THE
21 RECORD OF A CONVICTION MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN APPLICATION FOR A
22 CERTIFICATE OF RELIEF FROM DISABILITIES UNDER ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE OF
23 THE CORRECTION LAW, IN WHICH EVENT THE COURT MUST DETERMINE SUCH APPLI-
24 CATION AND SUCH DETERMINATION SHALL BE WITHOUT REGARD TO THE DETERMI-
25 NATION OF THE PETITION FOR SEALING. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL
26 PROHIBIT USE OF THE CONVICTION OF AN OFFENSE, THE RECORDS OF WHICH HAVE
27 BEEN SEALED HEREUNDER, IN ANY SENTENCING PROCEEDING, OR AS AN ELEMENT OF
28 AN OFFENSE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDING OR REGULATORY ACTION
29 COMMENCED AGAINST THE PETITIONER BY THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVI-
30 SION THEREOF.

31 5. UNSEALING OF SEALED RECORDS. WHERE RECORDS OF A PERSON'S CONVICTION
32 OR CONVICTIONS HAVE BEEN SEALED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, SUCH RECORD OR
33 RECORDS SHALL BE UNSEALED: (A) IMMEDIATELY UPON SUCH PERSON BEING SUBSE-
34 QUENTLY ARRAIGNED ON THE CHARGE OF ANY FELONY OFFENSE UNDER THE LAW OF
35 THIS STATE, OR A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER FEDERAL LAW OR THE LAW OF ANOTH-
36 ER STATE THAT, UNDER THE PENAL LAW OF THIS STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A
37 FELONY OFFENSE; OR (B) IMMEDIATELY UPON SUCH PERSON BEING SUBSEQUENTLY
38 CONVICTED OF ANY MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE UNDER THE LAW OF THIS STATE, OR A
39 CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER FEDERAL LAW OR THE LAW OF ANOTHER STATE THAT,
40 UNDER THE PENAL LAW OF THIS STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A MISDEMEANOR
41 OFFENSE. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF SUCH NEW ARREST, CHARGE OR
42 CONVICTION (FOLLOWING AN APPEAL THEREFROM) RESULTS IN A TERMINATION IN
43 FAVOR OF THE ACCUSED AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION 160.50
44 OF THIS ARTICLE OR IN A CONVICTION FOR A NON-CRIMINAL OFFENSE AS
45 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 160.55 OF THIS ARTICLE, SUCH UNSEALED RECORDS SHALL
46 AGAIN BE SEALED AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH FIVE OF PARAGRAPH (C) OF
47 SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION.

48 S 4. Subdivision 16 of section 296 of the executive law, as separately
49 amended by section 3 of part N and section 14 of part AAA of chapter 56
50 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

51 16. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice, unless specif-
52 ically required or permitted by statute, for any person, agency, bureau,
53 corporation or association, including the state and any political subdivi-
54 sion thereof, to make any inquiry about, whether in any form of appli-
55 cation or otherwise, or to act upon adversely to the individual
56 involved, any arrest or criminal accusation of such individual not then

1 pending against that individual which was followed by a termination of
2 that criminal action or proceeding in favor of such individual, as
3 defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of the criminal procedure
4 law, or by a youthful offender adjudication, as defined in subdivision
5 one of section 720.35 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction
6 for a violation sealed pursuant to section 160.55 of the criminal proce-
7 dure law or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.58
8 of the criminal procedure law, OR BY A CONVICTION WHICH IS SEALED PURSU-
9 ANT TO SECTION 160.65 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW, in connection with
10 the licensing, employment or providing of credit or insurance to such
11 individual; provided, further, that no person shall be required to
12 divulge information pertaining to any arrest or criminal accusation of
13 such individual not then pending against that individual which was
14 followed by a termination of that criminal action or proceeding in favor
15 of such individual, as defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of
16 the criminal procedure law, or by a youthful offender adjudication, as
17 defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal procedure
18 law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to section
19 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed
20 pursuant to section 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, OR BY A
21 CONVICTION WHICH IS SEALED PURSUANT TO SECTION 160.65 OF THE CRIMINAL
22 PROCEDURE LAW. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the
23 licensing activities of governmental bodies in relation to the regu-
24 lation of guns, firearms and other deadly weapons or in relation to an
25 application for employment as a police officer or peace officer as those
26 terms are defined in subdivisions thirty-three and thirty-four of
27 section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law; provided further that the
28 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to an application for
29 employment or membership in any law enforcement agency INCLUDING ANY
30 OFFICER, INDIVIDUAL, INSTITUTION OR AGENCY SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT OR
31 REGULATION BY THE JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH
32 SPECIAL NEEDS OR WITH ANY OTHER OFFICER, INDIVIDUAL, INSTITUTION OR
33 AGENCY DESIGNATED BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS PURSUANT TO
34 CLAUSE (VI) OF SUBPARAGRAPH SIX OF PARAGRAPH (C) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF
35 SECTION 160.65 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW with respect to any arrest
36 or criminal accusation which was followed by a youthful offender adjudi-
37 cation, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal
38 procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to
39 section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which
40 is sealed pursuant to section 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, OR
41 BY A CONVICTION WHICH IS SEALED PURSUANT TO SECTION 160.65 OF THE CRIMI-
42 NAL PROCEDURE LAW.

43 S 5. Whenever, in connection with the licensing, employment or provid-
44 ing of credit or insurance to an individual, any person, agency, bureau,
45 corporation or association, including the state and any political subdi-
46 vision thereof, inquires of such individual if he or she has been
47 convicted of a crime, whether in any form of application or otherwise,
48 such inquiry, regardless of how worded, shall be deemed to be only as to
49 convictions that have not been sealed pursuant to section 160.55, 160.58
50 or 160.65 of the criminal procedure law, and the individual to whom it
51 is directed shall answer accordingly; provided, however, this section
52 shall not apply where the inquiry would not constitute an unlawful
53 discriminatory practice under subdivision 16 of section 296 of the exec-
54 utive law.

55 S 6. Nothing in this act shall bar any person from freely speaking or
56 writing about, or publishing by any other means, any information in his

1 or her possession concerning another person's past criminal conviction
2 or convictions, notwithstanding that such conviction or convictions may
3 have been sealed pursuant to this act.
4 S 7. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
5 it shall have become a law and shall apply to all convictions occurring
6 prior to, on, and after such effective date.