

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 251

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHROER.

1074H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 610.140, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to expungement.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 610.140, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 610.140, to read as follows:

610.140. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the provisions of this section, any person may apply to any court in which such person was charged or found guilty of any offenses, violations, or infractions for an order to expunge records of such arrest, plea, trial, or conviction. Subject to the limitations of subsection 12 of this section, a person may apply to have one or more offenses, violations, or infractions expunged if such offense, violation, or infraction occurred within the state of Missouri and was prosecuted under the jurisdiction of a Missouri municipal, associate circuit, or circuit court, so long as such person lists all the offenses, violations, and infractions he or she is seeking to have expunged in the petition and so long as all such offenses, violations, and infractions are not excluded under subsection 2 of this section. If the offenses, violations, or infractions were charged as counts in the same indictment or information or were committed as part of the same course of criminal conduct, the person may include all the related offenses, violations, and infractions in the petition, regardless of the limits of subsection 12 of this section, and the petition shall only count as a petition for expungement of the highest level violation or offense contained in the petition for the purpose of determining future eligibility for expungement.

2. The following offenses, violations, and infractions shall not be eligible for expungement under this section:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 18 (1) Any class A felony offense;
- 19 (2) Any dangerous felony as that term is defined in section 556.061;
- 20 (3) Any offense that requires registration as a sex offender;
- 21 (4) Any felony offense where death is an element of the offense;
- 22 (5) Any felony offense of assault; misdemeanor or felony offense of domestic assault;
- 23 or felony offense of kidnapping;
- 24 (6) Any offense listed, or previously listed, in chapter 566 or section 105.454, 105.478,
- 25 115.631, 130.028, 188.030, 188.080, 191.677, 194.425, 217.360, 217.385, 334.245, 375.991,
- 26 389.653, 455.085, 455.538, 557.035, 565.084, 565.085, 565.086, 565.095, 565.120, 565.130,
- 27 565.156, 565.200, 565.214, 566.093, 566.111, 566.115, 568.020, 568.030, 568.032, 568.045,
- 28 568.060, 568.065, 568.080, 568.090, 568.175, 569.030, 569.035, 569.040, 569.050, 569.055,
- 29 569.060, 569.065, 569.067, 569.072, 569.160, 570.025, 570.090, 570.180, 570.223, 570.224,
- 30 570.310, 571.020, 571.060, 571.063, 571.070, 571.072, 571.150, 574.070, 574.105, 574.115,
- 31 574.120, 574.130, 575.040, 575.095, 575.153, 575.155, 575.157, 575.159, 575.195, 575.200,
- 32 575.210, 575.220, 575.230, 575.240, 575.350, 575.353, 577.078, 577.703, 577.706, 578.008,
- 33 578.305, 578.310, or 632.520;
- 34 (7) Any offense eligible for expungement under section 577.054 or 610.130;
- 35 (8) Any intoxication-related traffic or boating offense as defined in section 577.001, or
- 36 any offense of operating an aircraft with an excessive blood alcohol content or while in an
- 37 intoxicated condition;
- 38 (9) Any ordinance violation that is the substantial equivalent of any offense that is not
- 39 eligible for expungement under this section;
- 40 (10) Any violation of any state law or county or municipal ordinance regulating the
- 41 operation of motor vehicles when committed by an individual who has been issued a commercial
- 42 driver's license or is required to possess a commercial driver's license issued by this state or any
- 43 other state; and
- 44 (11) Any offense of section 571.030, except any offense under subdivision (1) of
- 45 subsection 1 of section 571.030 where the person was convicted or found guilty prior to January
- 46 1, 2017, **or any offense under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of section 571.030.**
- 47 3. The petition shall name as defendants all law enforcement agencies, courts,
- 48 prosecuting or circuit attorneys, municipal prosecuting attorneys, central state repositories of
- 49 criminal records, or others who the petitioner has reason to believe may possess the records
- 50 subject to expungement for each of the offenses, violations, and infractions listed in the petition.
- 51 The court's order of expungement shall not affect any person or entity not named as a defendant
- 52 in the action.
- 53 4. The petition shall include the following information:

- 54 (1) The petitioner's:  
55 (a) Full name;  
56 (b) Sex;  
57 (c) Race;  
58 (d) Driver's license number, if applicable; and  
59 (e) Current address;
- 60 (2) Each offense, violation, or infraction for which the petitioner is requesting  
61 expungement;
- 62 (3) The approximate date the petitioner was charged for each offense, violation, or  
63 infraction; and
- 64 (4) The name of the county where the petitioner was charged for each offense, violation,  
65 or infraction and if any of the offenses, violations, or infractions occurred in a municipality, the  
66 name of the municipality for each offense, violation, or infraction; and
- 67 (5) The case number and name of the court for each offense.
- 68 5. The clerk of the court shall give notice of the filing of the petition to the office of the  
69 prosecuting attorney, circuit attorney, or municipal prosecuting attorney that prosecuted the  
70 offenses, violations, or infractions listed in the petition. If the prosecuting attorney, circuit  
71 attorney, or municipal prosecuting attorney objects to the petition for expungement, he or she  
72 shall do so in writing within thirty days after receipt of service. Unless otherwise agreed upon  
73 by the parties, the court shall hold a hearing within sixty days after any written objection is filed,  
74 giving reasonable notice of the hearing to the petitioner. If no objection has been filed within  
75 thirty days after receipt of service, the court may set a hearing on the matter and shall give  
76 reasonable notice of the hearing to each entity named in the petition. At any hearing, the court  
77 may accept evidence and hear testimony on, and may consider, the following criteria for each of  
78 the offenses, violations, or infractions listed in the petition for expungement:
- 79 (1) At the time the petition is filed, it has been at least seven years if the offense is a  
80 felony, or at least three years if the offense is a misdemeanor, municipal offense, or infraction,  
81 from the date the petitioner completed any authorized disposition imposed under section 557.011  
82 for each offense, violation, or infraction listed in the petition;
- 83 (2) The person has not been found guilty of any other misdemeanor or felony, not  
84 including violations of the traffic regulations provided under chapters 304 and 307, during the  
85 time period specified for the underlying offense, violation, or infraction in subdivision (1) of this  
86 subsection;
- 87 (3) The person has satisfied all obligations relating to any such disposition, including the  
88 payment of any fines or restitution;
- 89 (4) The person does not have charges pending;

90 (5) The petitioner's habits and conduct demonstrate that the petitioner is not a threat to  
91 the public safety of the state; and

92 (6) The expungement is consistent with the public welfare and the interests of justice  
93 warrant the expungement.

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95 A pleading by the petitioner that such petitioner meets the requirements of subdivisions (5) and  
96 (6) of this subsection shall create a rebuttable presumption that the expungement is warranted  
97 so long as the criteria contained in subdivisions (1) to (4) of this subsection are otherwise  
98 satisfied. The burden shall shift to the prosecuting attorney, circuit attorney, or municipal  
99 prosecuting attorney to rebut the presumption. A victim of an offense, violation, or infraction  
100 listed in the petition shall have an opportunity to be heard at any hearing held under this section,  
101 and the court may make a determination based solely on such victim's testimony.

102 6. A petition to expunge records related to an arrest for an eligible offense, violation, or  
103 infraction may be made in accordance with the provisions of this section to a court of competent  
104 jurisdiction in the county where the petitioner was arrested no earlier than three years from the  
105 date of arrest; provided that, during such time, the petitioner has not been charged and the  
106 petitioner has not been found guilty of any misdemeanor or felony offense.

107 7. If the court determines that such person meets all the criteria set forth in subsection  
108 5 of this section for each of the offenses, violations, or infractions listed in the petition for  
109 expungement, the court shall enter an order of expungement. In all cases under this section, the  
110 court shall issue an order of expungement or dismissal within six months of the filing of the  
111 petition. A copy of the order of expungement shall be provided to the petitioner and each entity  
112 possessing records subject to the order, and, upon receipt of the order, each entity shall close any  
113 record in its possession relating to any offense, violation, or infraction listed in the petition, in  
114 the manner established by section 610.120. The records and files maintained in any  
115 administrative or court proceeding in a municipal, associate, or circuit court for any offense,  
116 infraction, or violation ordered expunged under this section shall be confidential and only  
117 available to the parties or by order of the court for good cause shown. The central repository  
118 shall request the Federal Bureau of Investigation to expunge the records from its files.

119 8. The order shall not limit any of the petitioner's rights that were restricted as a collateral  
120 consequence of such person's criminal record, and such rights shall be restored upon issuance  
121 of the order of expungement. Except as otherwise provided under this section, the effect of such  
122 order shall be to restore such person to the status he or she occupied prior to such arrests, pleas,  
123 trials, or convictions as if such events had never taken place. No person as to whom such order  
124 has been entered shall be held thereafter under any provision of law to be guilty of perjury or  
125 otherwise giving a false statement by reason of his or her failure to recite or acknowledge such

126 arrests, pleas, trials, convictions, or expungement in response to an inquiry made of him or her  
127 and no such inquiry shall be made for information relating to an expungement, except the  
128 petitioner shall disclose the expunged offense, violation, or infraction to any court when asked  
129 or upon being charged with any subsequent offense, violation, or infraction. The expunged  
130 offense, violation, or infraction may be considered a prior offense in determining a sentence to  
131 be imposed for any subsequent offense that the person is found guilty of committing.

132 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 8 of this section to the contrary, a person  
133 granted an expungement shall disclose any expunged offense, violation, or infraction when the  
134 disclosure of such information is necessary to complete any application for:

135 (1) A license, certificate, or permit issued by this state to practice such individual's  
136 profession;

137 (2) Any license issued under chapter 313 or permit issued under chapter 571;

138 (3) Paid or unpaid employment with an entity licensed under chapter 313, any  
139 state-operated lottery, or any emergency services provider, including any law enforcement  
140 agency;

141 (4) Employment with any federally insured bank or savings institution or credit union  
142 or an affiliate of such institution or credit union for the purposes of compliance with 12 U.S.C.  
143 Section 1829 and 12 U.S.C. Section 1785;

144 (5) Employment with any entity engaged in the business of insurance or any insurer for  
145 the purpose of complying with 18 U.S.C. Section 1033, 18 U.S.C. Section 1034, or other similar  
146 law which requires an employer engaged in the business of insurance to exclude applicants with  
147 certain criminal convictions from employment; or

148 (6) Employment with any employer that is required to exclude applicants with certain  
149 criminal convictions from employment due to federal or state law, including corresponding rules  
150 and regulations.

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152 An employer shall notify an applicant of the requirements under subdivisions (4) to (6) of this  
153 subsection. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an expunged offense,  
154 violation, or infraction shall not be grounds for automatic disqualification of an applicant, but  
155 may be a factor for denying employment, or a professional license, certificate, or permit; except  
156 that, an offense, violation, or infraction expunged under the provisions of this section may be  
157 grounds for automatic disqualification if the application is for employment under subdivisions  
158 (4) to (6) of this subsection.

159 10. A person who has been granted an expungement of records pertaining to a  
160 misdemeanor or felony offense, an ordinance violation, or an infraction may answer "no" to an  
161 employer's inquiry into whether the person has ever been convicted of a crime if, after the

162 granting of the expungement, the person has no public record of a misdemeanor or felony  
163 offense, an ordinance violation, or an infraction. The person, however, shall answer such an  
164 inquiry affirmatively and disclose his or her criminal convictions, including any offense or  
165 violation expunged under this section or similar law, if the employer is required to exclude  
166 applicants with certain criminal convictions from employment due to federal or state law,  
167 including corresponding rules and regulations.

168 11. If the court determines that the petitioner has not met the criteria for any of the  
169 offenses, violations, or infractions listed in the petition for expungement or the petitioner has  
170 knowingly provided false information in the petition, the court shall enter an order dismissing  
171 the petition. Any person whose petition for expungement has been dismissed by the court for  
172 failure to meet the criteria set forth in subsection 5 of this section may not refile another petition  
173 until a year has passed since the date of filing for the previous petition.

174 12. A person may be granted more than one expungement under this section provided  
175 that during his or her lifetime, the total number of offenses, violations, or infractions for which  
176 orders of expungement are granted to the person shall not exceed the following limits:

177 (1) Not more than two misdemeanor offenses or ordinance violations that have an  
178 authorized term of imprisonment; and

179 (2) Not more than one felony offense.

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181 A person may be granted expungement under this section for any number of infractions. Nothing  
182 in this section shall prevent the court from maintaining records to ensure that an individual has  
183 not exceeded the limitations of this subsection. Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
184 limit or impair in any way the subsequent use of any record expunged under this section of any  
185 arrests or findings of guilt by a law enforcement agency, criminal justice agency, prosecuting  
186 attorney, circuit attorney, or municipal prosecuting attorney, including its use as a prior offense,  
187 violation, or infraction.

188 13. The court shall make available a form for pro se petitioners seeking expungement,  
189 which shall include the following statement: "I declare under penalty of perjury that the  
190 statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and  
191 belief".

192 14. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the availability of  
193 expungement to any person under any other law.

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