

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OFFICE OF SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER MAYOR

> NOV 6 2017 The Honorable Phil Mendelson Chairman Council of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 504 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration and approval by the Council of the District of Columbia is a bill entitled the "Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017."

Each year, more than 40,000 people are arrested in the District of Columbia. Although about one-third of those individuals are never prosecuted, a criminal record exists and will follow those people for the rest of their lives, impacting their ability to find employment or housing. Approximately 10,000 people each year seek legal assistance from nonprofit organizations to seal their records. The process is time-consuming and confusing.

The legislation will radically reform the District's record sealing process by mandating automatic sealing for non-convictions, shortening the waiting periods before a person is eligible to seal their record, and expanding the eligibility of who can seal their record. For individuals who are arrested but not prosecuted, and for people who are charged but not convicted, the legislation would result in their records being automatically sealed within 90 days of the termination of the case. For those with convictions, the legislation mandates that a panel of legal experts review the types of convictions that should be eligible for sealing; it also reduces the waiting time to seal those records.

I urge prompt consideration and approval of this measure. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Deputy Mayor Kevin Donahue at (202) 286-5028.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser

Enclosures

at the request of the Mayor A BILL IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA To amend Chapter 8 of Title 16 to increase the number of eligible convictions that may be sealed, to reduce the number of years a resident must remain off papered to seal an eligible conviction, to simplify and shorten the process that a resident must undertake to seal a charge that does not end in a conviction, to provide guidance to residents on how to answer questions about criminal records on employment and housing applications, to have a group of independent legal experts look at ineligible misdemeanors and felonies and issue a report with recommendations for eligibility. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017". Sec. 2. Chapter 8 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows: (a) The table of contents is amended as follows: (1) A new section designation is added to read as follows: "§ 16-803.01a. Sealing of public criminal records in cases that end without conviction." (2) A new section designation is added to read as follows: "§ 16-803.03. Criminal Code Reform Commission Report on Ineligible Offenses for Record Sealing." (3) A new section designation is added to read as follows: "§ 16-806.01. Impact of sealed records on applications for employment or housing."

35	(b) Section 16-801 is amended as follows:
36	(1) Subsection (5) is amended as follows:
37	(A) By striking the phrase "Disqualifying arrest or conviction" and
38	inserting the phrase "Disqualifying conviction" in its place.
39	(B) Paragraph (B) is repealed.
40	(2) Subsection (11) is amended as follows:
41	(A) By striking the phrase "executive-grade government position." and
42	inserting the phrase "executive-grade government position; and" in its
43	place.
44	(B) By adding a new paragraph (G) to read as follows:
45	"(G) The federal government.".
46	(c) Section 16-803 is amended as follows:
47	(1) Subsection (a) is repealed.
48	(2) Subsection (b) is repealed.
49	(3) Subsection (c) is amended as follows:
50	(A) By striking the phrase "conviction if" and inserting the phrase
51	"conviction in up to 5 cases in a person's lifetime if" in its place.
52	(B) Paragraph 1 is amended by striking the number "8" and inserting the
53	number "5" in its place.
54	(C) Paragraph 2 is amended by striking the phrase "disqualifying arrest or
55	conviction" and inserting the phrase "disqualifying conviction" in its place.
56	(4) Subsection (d) is amended as follows:

57	(A) By striking the phrase "The waiting periods in subsections (a), (b), and
58	(c) of this section" and inserting the phrase "The waiting period in subsection (c) of this section"
59	in its place.
50	(B) By striking the phrase "movant's arrests and convictions" and
51	inserting the phrase "movant's convictions" in its place.
52	(C) By striking the phrase "an arrest or conviction" and inserting the word
53	"a conviction" in its place.
54	(5) Subsection (e) is amended by striking the phrase "The waiting periods in
55	subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section" and inserting the phrase "The waiting period in
66	subsection (c) of this section" in its place.
67	(6) Subsection (f) is amended as follows:
68	(A) By striking the phrase "In a motion filed under subsections (a), (b),
59	and (c) of this section" and inserting the phrase "In a motion filed under subsection (c) of this
70	section" in its place.
71	(B) By striking the phrase "arrests and convictions" and inserting the word
72	"convictions" in its place.
73	(C) By striking the phrase "conviction or arrest" and inserting the word
74	"conviction" in its place.
75	(7) Subsection (g) is amended by striking the phrase "arrest, or pending charge,
76	minor offenses shall not be considered" and inserting the phrase "minor offenses or non-
77	convictions shall not be considered" in its place.
78	(8) Subsection (i) is amended as follows:

79	(A) By striking the phrase "In a motion filed under subsection (a) or (c-2)"
80	and inserting the phrase "In a motion filed under subsection (c-2)" in its place.
81	(B) Paragraph (2) is repealed.
82	(d) Section 16-803.01a is added to read as follows:
83	"§ 16-803.01a. Sealing of public criminal records in cases that end without conviction.
84	"(a)(1) A person arrested for, or charged with, the commission of a dangerous crime
85	pursuant to § 23-1331 whose prosecution has been terminated without conviction may file a
86	motion to seal all publicly available records of the arrest or related court proceedings if:
87	"(A) A waiting period of at least 90 days has elapsed since the termination
88	of the case; and
89	"(B) Except as permitted by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the movant
90	does not have a disqualifying conviction.
91	"(2)(A) If a period of at least 3 years has elapsed since the completion of the
92	movant's sentence for a disqualifying misdemeanor conviction in the District of Columbia or for
93	a conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct that would constitute a
94	disqualifying misdemeanor conviction if committed in the District, the conviction shall not
95	disqualify the movant from filing a motion to seal an arrest and related court proceedings under
96	this subsection for a case that was terminated without conviction before or after the disqualifying
97	misdemeanor conviction, except when the case terminated without a conviction as a result of the
98	successful completion of a deferred sentencing agreement.
99	"(B) If a period of at least 5 years has elapsed since the completion of the
100	movant's sentence for a disqualifying felony conviction in the District of Columbia or for a
101	conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct that would constitute a

disqualifying felony conviction if committed in the District, the conviction shall not disqualify the movant from filing a motion to seal an arrest and related court proceedings under this subsection for a case that was terminated without conviction before or after the disqualifying felony conviction, except when the case terminated without conviction as the result of the successful completion of a deferred sentencing agreement.

"(3) In a motion filed under subsection (a) of this section, the burden shall be on the movant to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the interests of justice to grant relief.

"(b)(1) Any person arrested for, or charged with, the commission of any other offense pursuant to the District of Columbia Official Code or the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, whose prosecution terminated without conviction before the effective date of the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017, may file a motion to seal all publicly available records of the arrest or related court proceedings if:

"(A) A waiting period of at least 90 days has elapsed since the termination of the case; and

"(B) Except as permitted by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the movant does not have a disqualifying conviction.

"(2)(A) If a period of at least 3 years has elapsed since the completion of the movant's sentence for a disqualifying misdemeanor conviction in the District of Columbia or for a conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct that would constitute a disqualifying misdemeanor conviction if committed in the District, the conviction shall not disqualify the movant from filing a motion to seal an arrest and related court proceedings under this subsection for a case that was terminated without conviction before or after the disqualifying

misdemeanor conviction, except when the case terminated without a conviction as a result of the successful completion of a deferred sentencing agreement.

"(B) If a period of at least 5 years has elapsed since the completion of the movant's sentence for a disqualifying felony conviction in the District of Columbia or for a conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct that would constitute a disqualifying felony conviction if committed in the District, the conviction shall not disqualify the movant from filing a motion to seal an arrest and related court proceedings under this subsection for a case that was terminated without conviction before or after the disqualifying felony conviction, except when the case terminated without conviction as the result of the successful completion of a deferred sentencing agreement.

"(c)(1) For persons arrested for, or charged with, the commission of any other offense pursuant to the District of Columbia Official Code or the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, whose prosecution terminated without conviction on or after the effective date of the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017, the Court shall, *sua sponte*, seal all publicly available records of the arrest and related court proceedings after a waiting period of 90 days has elapsed since the termination of the case, if:

"(A) The prosecutor does not object within the 90-day waiting period; and

"(B) The arrestee or chargee does not have a disqualifying conviction.

"(2) If the prosecutor objects to relief pursuant to this subsection within the 90day period, the burden shall be on the prosecutor to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that it is not in the interests of justice to grant relief pursuant to this subsection.

"(3)(A) If a period of at least 3 years has elapsed since the completion of the arrestee or chargee's sentence for a disqualifying misdemeanor conviction in the District of

Columbia or for a conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct that would constitute a disqualifying misdemeanor conviction if committed in the District, the conviction shall not disqualify the arrestee or chargee from filing a motion to seal all publicly available records of the arrest or related court proceedings, except when the case terminated without a conviction as a result of the successful completion of a deferred sentencing agreement.

"(B) If a period of at least 5 years has elapsed since the completion of the arrestee or chargee's sentence for a disqualifying felony conviction in the District of Columbia or for a conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct that would constitute a disqualifying felony conviction if committed in the District, the conviction shall not disqualify the arrestee or chargee from filing a motion to seal all publicly available records of the arrest or related court proceedings, except when the case terminated without conviction as the result of the successful completion of a deferred sentencing agreement.

- "(d) The waiting periods in subsections (a), (b), and (c)(3) of this section may be waived by the prosecutor in writing.
- "(e) In a motion filed under subsections (b) and (c)(3) of this section, the burden shall be on the prosecutor to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that it is not in the interests of justice to grant relief.
- "(f) The Superior Court shall grant a motion to seal pursuant to subsections (a), (b), or (c)(3) or provide relief over the objection of the prosecutor pursuant to subsection (c)(2) if it is in the interests of justice to do so. In making this determination, the Court shall weigh:
- "(1) The interest of the movant, arrestee, or chargee in sealing the publicly available records of his or her arrest and related court proceedings;

170	"(2) The community's interest in retaining access to those records, including the
171	interest of current or prospective employers in making fully informed hiring or job assignment
172	decisions and the interest in promoting public safety; and
173	"(3) The community's interest in furthering the movant, arrestee, or chargee's
174	rehabilitation and enhancing the movant, arrestee, or chargee's employability.
175	"(g) The Court may also consider:
176	"(1) The nature and circumstances of the alleged offense at issue;
177	"(2) The movant, arrestee, or chargee's alleged role in the alleged offense;
178	"(3) The history and characteristics of the movant, arrestee, or chargee, including
179	the movant, arrestee, or chargee's:
180	"(A) Character;
181.	"(B) Physical and mental condition;
182	"(C) Employment history;
183	"(D) Prior and subsequent conduct;
184	"(E) History relating to drug or alcohol abuse or dependence and
185	treatment opportunities;
186	"(F) Criminal history; provided, that a movant, arrestee, or chargee with
187	repeated violent offenses shall not be eligible for sealing; and
188	"(G) Efforts at rehabilitation;
189	"(4) The number of the arrests that are the subject of the motion;
190	"(5) The time that has elapsed since the arrests that are the subject of the motion;

191	"(6) Whether the movant, arrestee, or chargee has previously obtained sealing or
192	comparable relief under this section or any other provision of law other than by reason of actual
193	innocence; and
194	"(7) Any statement made by the victim of the alleged offense.
195	"(h) A motion to seal may be dismissed without prejudice to permit the movant to renew
196	the motion after further passage of time. The Court may set a waiting period before a renewed
197	motion can be filed.
198	"(i) A motion to seal may be dismissed if it appears that the movant has unreasonably
199	delayed filing the motion and that the government has been prejudiced in its ability to respond to
200	the motion by the delay in its filing, unless the movant shows that the motion is based on
201	grounds which the person could not have raised by the exercise of reasonable diligence before
202	the circumstances prejudicial to the government occurred.
203	"(j) If the Court grants a motion to seal pursuant to subsections (a), (b), or (c)(3) or
204	provides relief pursuant to subsections (c)(1) or (c)(2):
205	"(1)(A) The Court shall order the prosecutor, any law enforcement agency, and
206	any pretrial, corrections, or community supervision agency to remove from their publicly
207	available records all references that identify the movant, arrestee, or chargee as having been
208	arrested or prosecuted.
209	"(B) The prosecutor's office and agencies shall be entitled to retain any
210	and all records relating to the movant, arrestee, or chargee's arrest and prosecution in a
211	nonpublic file.
212	"(C) The prosecutor, any law enforcement agency, and any pretrial,
213	corrections, or community supervision agency office shall file a certification with the Court

within 90 days that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, all references that identify the
movant, arrestee, or chargee as having been arrested or prosecuted have been removed from its
publicly available records.

- "(2)(A) The Court shall order the Clerk to remove or eliminate all publicly available Court records that identify the movant, arrestee, or chargee as having been arrested or prosecuted.
- "(B) The Clerk shall be entitled to retain any and all records relating to the movant, arrestee, or chargee's arrest and related court proceedings.
- "(3)(A) In a case involving co-defendants in which the Court orders the movant, arrestee, or chargee's records sealed, the Court may order that only those records, or portions thereof, relating solely to the movant, arrestee, or chargee be redacted.
- "(B) The Court need not order the redaction of references to the movant, arrestee, or chargee that appear in a transcript of court proceedings involving co-defendants.
- "(4) The Court shall not order the redaction of the movant, arrestee, or chargee's name from any published opinion of the trial or appellate courts that refer to the movant, arrestee, or chargee.
- "(5) Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the Clerk and any other agency shall reply in response to inquiries from the public concerning the existence of records which have been sealed pursuant to this chapter that no records are available.
- "(6) No person as to whom such relief has been granted shall be held thereafter under any provision of law to be guilty of perjury or otherwise giving a false statement by reason of failure to recite or acknowledge his or her arrest, charge, or trial in response to any inquiry made of him or her for any purpose except that the sealing of records under this provision does

237	not relieve a person of the obligation to disclose the sealed arrest or prosecution in response to
238	any direct question asked in connection with jury service or in response to any direct question
239	contained in any questionnaire or application for a position with any person, agency,
240	organization, or entity defined in § 16-801(11).".
241	(e) Section 16-803.03 is added to read as follows:
242	"§ 16-803.03. Criminal Code Reform Commission Report on Ineligible Offenses for
243	Record Sealing.
244	"(a) The Criminal Code Reform Commission shall submit to the Council's Committee or
245	the Judiciary and Public Safety and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, within 6
246	months of the effective date of the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017, a report that
247	contains the recommendation and rationale of the Commission to make any ineligible
248	misdemeanors, pursuant to § 16-801(9), and ineligible felonies, pursuant to § 16-801(8), eligible
249	for record sealing pursuant to § 16-803(c).".
250	(f) Section 16-804 is amended as follows:
251	(1) By striking the phrase "§ 16-803(a), (b), or (c)" both times it appears and
252	inserting the phrase "§ 16-803(c)" in its place.
253	(2) By striking the phrase "arrests and convictions" wherever it appears and
254	inserting the word "convictions" in its place.
255	(3) By striking the phrase "arrests and any conviction" and inserting the word
256	"convictions" in its place.
257	(4) By striking the phrase "arrest or conviction" both times it appears and
258	inserting the word "conviction" in its place.
259	(g) Section 16-806 is amended as follows:

260	(1) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:
261	(A) By striking the phrase "§16-803.01, or" both times it appears and
262	inserting the phrase "§ 16-803.01, § 16-803.01a, or" in its place.
263	(B) By striking the phrase "§ 16-803(l)(1)(C)" and inserting the phrase "§
264	16-803(l)(1)(C) and § 16-803.01a(j)(1)(C)" in its place.
265	(2) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase "§ 16-803(l)(5), or" and
266	inserting the phrase "§ 16-803(l)(5), § 16-803.01a(j)(5), or" in its place.
267	(h) Section 16-806.01 is added to read as follows:
268	"§ 16-806.01. Impact of sealed records on applications for employment or housing.
269	"(a) Except as provided in § 16-803(m) and § 16-803.01a(j)(6), and where federal law or
270	regulation or District law requires the consideration of an applicant's criminal history for
271	purposes of obtaining housing or a housing accommodation or otherwise allows for denial of an
272	applicant due to certain criminal convictions, an applicant for employment or housing with a
273	sealed record on file with the Superior Court may answer "no record" with respect to any inquiry
274	related to:
275	"(1) Prior arrests, criminal court appearances, or convictions; and
276	"(2) Prior arrests, court appearances, and adjudications in any case of delinquency
277	or child in need of supervision that did not result in a complaint being transferred to the Superior
278	Court for criminal prosecution.".
279	Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.
280	The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
281	impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
282	approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

283	Sec. 4. Effective date.
284	This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
285	Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
286	provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of

288 Columbia Register.

Government of the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO:

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia leg SteWill

FROM:

Jeffrey S. DeWitt

Chief Financial Officer

DATE:

October 27, 2017

SUBJECT:

Fiscal Impact Statement - Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017

REFERENCE:

Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 27,

2017

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

District law1 establishes a number of conditions whereby an individual can motion to the clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the Court to seal any records related to an arrest, court proceedings, or a conviction. Such conditions, including ineligible offenses, filing timelines, and burdens of proof, vary according to whether a conviction has occurred or the prosecution has terminated a case without conviction.

The bill reduces the waiting period to request a record sealing from eight years to five years for eligible misdemeanor and felony convictions, as long as the individual does not have a disqualifying conviction.2 The bill also limits, in cases with a conviction, the number of record sealings to five cases in a person's lifetime.

In cases where an individual has been arrested for or charged with the commission of an eligible offense, but the prosecution has terminated the case without a conviction, the bill requires the

¹ Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2006, effective May 3, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-307; D.C. Official Code § 16-801 et seg.).

² A disqualifying conviction is a conviction in any jurisdiction that occurs after the offense related to the motion to seal has been filed or a conviction for an ineligible offense.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017," Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 27, 2017

Courts to automatically seal all public records after ninety days³ as long as the individual does not have any disqualifying convictions.⁴ If the individual does have a disqualifying conviction, the record sealing is not automatic, but requires the individual to wait three years (for a disqualifying misdemeanor) or five years (for a felony conviction) from the completion of a sentence, before he or she can file a motion to seal records. In these cases, whether or not there is a disqualifying conviction, the burden is on the prosecutor to determine that a record sealing is not in the interest of justice.

Individuals requesting record sealing after prosecution has terminated the case of a dangerous crime may file a motion to the Court after a ninety day waiting period, but the burden of proof in this case is on the filer of the motion. The bill also requires these individuals to wait three years or five years from the completion of a disqualifying conviction's sentence. The bill establishes the conditions the Court should weigh in considering record sealing requests when an individual has a disqualifying conviction or when the terminated case is related to a dangerous crime.

The bill also requires the Criminal Code Reform Commission to submit a report to the Mayor and the Council, within six months of the bill's effective date, that includes recommendations on ineligible misdemeanors and felonies that should be made eligible for record sealing.

The bill ensures that any individual whose records have been sealed can safely report on employment and housing applications that they have no prior arrests, criminal court appearances or convictions.⁵ However, the bill does require an individual to truthfully answer a direct question asked in connection with jury service, employment with a public entity, or when federal or District law or regulation requires criminal history consideration for obtaining housing or housing accommodation.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Superior Court for the District of Columbia will implement the bill's record sealing provisions. The Court's responsibility to automatically seal some dismissed cases is a new requirement and many of the timeframes for an individual to file have been reduced. The Office of Revenue Analysis is unable to determine whether or not these changes will create an administrative burden on the Courts or whether they could alleviate some current burdens; however, the DC Courts are funded in the federal budget and any impacts would be incorporated into that budget process. The record sealing provisions will have no impact on the District's budget or financial plan.

The Criminal Code Reform Commission can produce the required report without additional resources, but it may need to delay other work to accomplish it. Additionally, the Commission is

³ Previously, the individual would have to file a motion to seal records after a two-year waiting period.

⁴ This provision applies only to dismissals that occur after the effective date of the Act. Dismissals that occur prior to the effective date require the individual to file the motion to seal.

⁵ Individuals are also deemed to have no records for arrests, appearances, and adjudications in cases of delinquency or child in need of services that were not transferred to the Superior Court for criminal prosecution.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017," Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 27, 2017

slated to sunset on October 1, 2018,6 so if this Act is not effective before April 1, 2018, the Commission may not have a full six months to complete the report.

⁶ Criminal Code Reform Commission Establishment Act of 2016, effective October 8, 2016 (D.C. Law 21-160; D.C. Official Code § 3-156).

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Office of the Attorney General



ATTORNEY GENERAL KARL A. RACINE

Legal Counsel Division

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Alana Intrieri

Executive Director

Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs

FROM:

Janet M. Robins

Deputy Attorney General Legal Counsel Division

DATE:

October 30, 2017

SUBJECT:

Legal Sufficiency Review of the "Second Chance Amendment Act of 2017," a

Bill to Amend Chapter 8 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code

(AE-17-602)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the abovereferenced proposed bill and found it to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 724-5524.

Janet M. Robins