
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 255 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, HERSHEY, GEORGE, GIBBONS, LEACH AND
THOMAS, APRIL 25, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 25, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the economic and public safety virtues of
2 expungement of specific criminal convictions.

3 WHEREAS, Many individuals who have made bad decisions in
4 their pasts and who have paid their debts to society are still
5 not given a fair chance with their futures; and

6 WHEREAS, Legislation is necessary to allow for expungement of
7 specific criminal convictions after a certain period of time;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Without the possibility of expungement, individuals
10 with criminal histories are doomed to a life of menial
11 employment, government dependency or recidivism; and

12 WHEREAS, Expungement as a legal remedy offers hope to those
13 without access to decent employment; and

14 WHEREAS, This hope gives incentive for rehabilitation and for
15 becoming a productive member of society making positive economic
16 and social contributions; and

17 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth are burdened with

1 supporting individuals with criminal records through
2 unemployment benefits; and

3 WHEREAS, Expungement will alleviate this unfair burden and
4 eliminate certain individuals' dependency on government
5 benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, Failure to use expungement as a tool to enhance
7 economic efficiency makes a segment of our population
8 unemployable; and

9 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth subsidizes this same segment in the
10 welfare and prison systems; and

11 WHEREAS, The average cost of incarcerating a prisoner is
12 \$22,650 per year; and

13 WHEREAS, Significant portions of State budgets are now
14 invested in the criminal justice system; and

15 WHEREAS, We have the opportunity to save money and cut down
16 on recidivism by allowing an individual to fully reintegrate
17 into society; and

18 WHEREAS, Many people have bettered their lives by attending
19 and graduating from colleges and universities throughout this
20 Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, They have also acquired marketable skills only to
22 find out they cannot receive gainful employment because of their
23 criminal histories; and

24 WHEREAS, Expungement of specific criminal offenses will
25 reduce recidivism, thereby increasing overall public safety in
26 this Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, Urban and rural areas of this Commonwealth can
28 benefit from allowing people to clearly display a positive
29 change in their lives and sufficiently provide for themselves
30 and their families through expungement of specific criminal

1 convictions; and

2 WHEREAS, Expungement will enable certain first-time offenders
3 to seek and find employment, and will reduce the amount of tax
4 dollars spent on welfare, thus creating a Pennsylvania which is
5 more desirable for its residents; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth pays a price when citizens cannot
7 find work and move forward with their lives; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
9 economic and public safety virtues of expungement of specific
10 criminal convictions.