

2020 -- H 8038

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LC005310  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF  
CRIMINALS

Introduced By: Representatives Knight, Blazejewski, Speakman, Williams, and Alzate

Date Introduced: June 18, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12-1.3-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-1.3 entitled  
2 "Expungement of Criminal Records" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **12-1.3-2. Motion for expungement.**

4 (a) Any person who is a first offender may file a motion for the expungement of all records  
5 and records of conviction for a felony or misdemeanor by filing a motion in the court in which the  
6 conviction took place; provided, that no person who has been convicted of a crime of violence shall  
7 have his or her records and records of conviction expunged; and provided, that all outstanding  
8 court-imposed or court-related fees, fines, costs, assessments, charges, and/or any other monetary  
9 obligations have been paid, unless such amounts are reduced or waived by order of the court.

10 (b) Notwithstanding § 12-1.3-1(3) ("first offender"), any person who has been convicted  
11 of more than one misdemeanor, but fewer than six (6) misdemeanors, and has not been convicted  
12 of a felony may file a motion for the expungement of any or all of those misdemeanors by filing a  
13 motion in the court in which the convictions took place; provided that convictions for offenses  
14 under chapter 29 of title 12, § 31-27-2 or § 31-27-2.1 are not eligible for and may not be expunged  
15 under this subsection.

16 (c) Subject to subsection (a), a person may file a motion for the expungement of records  
17 relating to a misdemeanor conviction after five (5) years from the date of the completion of his or  
18 her sentence.

1 (d) Subject to subsection (a), a person may file a motion for the expungement of records  
2 relating to a felony conviction after ten (10) years from the date of the completion of his or her  
3 sentence.

4 (e) Subject to § 12-19-19(c), and without regard to subsections (a) through (c) of this  
5 section, a person may file a motion for the expungement of records relating to a deferred sentence  
6 upon its completion, after which the court will hold a hearing on the motion.

7 (f) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, a person may file a motion for the expungement  
8 of records relating to misdemeanor convictions after ten (10) years from the date of the completion  
9 of their last sentence.

10 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) through (f) of this section, a person  
11 may file a motion for the expungement of records related to an offense that has been decriminalized  
12 ~~subsequent to the date of their conviction, after which~~ after the date of the person's conviction for  
13 said offense, including any misdemeanor or felony conviction for possession of marijuana. Upon  
14 the filing of said motion, the court will hold a hearing on the motion in the court in which the  
15 original conviction took place.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would make those convictions for crimes that have been decriminalized, including
- 2   misdemeanor and felony convictions for marijuana, eligible for expungement.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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