

Support HB 2677

Promote Success Eliminate Barriers



Help Rehabilitated Youth Move Forward By Accessing Expunction Process

Expunction of juvenile records is a long-standing right for youth. Very few exercise this right because the process is so confusing and complicated.

HB 2677 Does: Eliminates expunction process barriers for individuals who had contact with the juvenile court for a felony but have benefited from juvenile justice services, matured and have not engaged in similar criminal conduct. Adds felony adjudications to the system-initiated expunction process for individuals who were found within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for a felony and meet existing statutory requirements for expunction. The proposal also includes technical fixes to prior expunction legislation.

HB 2677 Does Not: Change which juvenile offenses are eligible for expunction. Certain felony records are not eligible for expunction.

Juvenile Records Create Barriers to Self-Sufficiency & Success for Rehabilitated Youth



EDUCATION

Juvenile records can limit access to college and influence school enrollment decisions.



EMPLOYMENT

Joblessness is a key contributor to recidivism. Investigation, arrest and court records can appear on a background check, limiting employment and prohibiting professional licensure.



EQUITY

Youth of color are disproportionately impacted by juvenile records. Research shows that juvenile records are more debilitating to youth of color than to their white peers.



COMMUNITY & SYSTEM COSTS

Collateral consequences cost taxpayers. The costs come in the form of lost wages/taxes and increased justice system spending.

History of Oregon's Juvenile Expunction Reform Efforts

Juvenile records are created when youth are investigated, arrested or have contact with the juvenile court. Some information in these records is publicly available and creates barriers to youth being self-sufficient, successful and productive community members. These barriers, called collateral consequences, are far reaching and move beyond the individual to negatively impact families and communities.

A group of legislators and juvenile justice system partners have been working over the last few sessions to improve Oregon's juvenile record expunction process by eliminating barriers to expunction and therefore promoting youth, family and community success. A collaborative process led to the drafting of SB 575 (2021) and SB 519 (2023). The legislation has proceeded in stages to ensure the system was working well before full implementation.

SB 575 (2021) reduced barriers to the expunction of juvenile records by requiring system-initiated expunction of juvenile records for individuals who have never been found within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court but have had contact with law enforcement and the juvenile department.

SB 519 (2023) further eliminated barriers to expunction of juvenile records by reducing waiting periods for misdemeanor and violation records and by requiring system-initiated expunction for individuals over 18 years of age who were found within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for a violation or misdemeanor.

SB 575 (2021) and SB 519 (2023) passed with overwhelming bipartisan support from both chambers.



Criminal Justice
Reform Clinic
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Sources: Juvenile Law Center, *Future Interrupted: The Collateral Damage Caused by Proliferation of Juvenile Records* (2016), <https://juvenilerecords.jlc.org/juvenilerecords/documents/publications/future-interrupted.pdf>; Josh Weber, *Reducing State-Imposed Barriers to School and Work for People with Juvenile Records* (New York: The Counsel of State Governments Justice Center, 2021).



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