

IT'S TIME FOR THE *Clean Slate Act*

WHAT IS CLEAN SLATE?

The Problem

One in three adults in the United States— about 70 to 100 million — have some kind of record. The majority of them are for arrests, acquittals, and non-violent misdemeanors like minor drug possession. **But even after paying their debt to society, most people don't get a second chance.**

Today, in most states, individuals have to keep track of when they are eligible for record sealing — a status that typically comes after remaining crime-free for a qualifying period of time, based on the offense. Then to actually get the record sealed, they are required to navigate a complex and costly petition-based process on their own. **Few are successful.**

The Solution

Clean Slate legislation expands eligibility for second chances and streamlines the process by automatically sealing eligible records once individuals meet the requirements.

Record clearance has a meaningful impact on individuals and their families — research shows that earnings for individuals with cleared records increased by 22% within one year and that those receiving record clearance are no more likely to commit crimes than the general population.

94% *of employers*

90% *of landlords*

72% *of colleges & universities*

Use background checks to screen out applicants with records.



TO DATE, 12 STATES HAVE PASSED CLEAN SLATE LAWS:

Pennsylvania	Virginia
Utah	Oklahoma
New Jersey	Colorado
Michigan	California
Connecticut	Minnesota
Delaware	New York

About the Clean Slate Act of 2023



THE CLEAN SLATE ACT OF 2023 (H.R. 2930) IS A FEDERAL HOUSE BILL THAT WOULD:

- **Automatically seal** federal records for people convicted of simple possession or any federal non-violent offense involving marijuana.
- Create a new procedure that allows individuals to petition the United States Courts to **seal records for nonviolent offenses** that are not automatically sealed.
- Require, within 180 days, **automatic sealing of arrest records** and other related records for individuals **that have been acquitted, exonerated, or never had charges filed against them.**
- **Require individuals to wait two years to re-petition** the court if their initial request was denied.
- Authorize district courts to **appoint a public defender to help indigent petitioners** file and successfully seal their records.
- **Protect employers from liability** for any claim arising out of the misconduct of an employee if the misconduct relates to a sealed criminal record.

H.R. 2930 Does NOT:



- Allow sealing sex offense records.
- Allow those convicted of terrorism, treason, or other national security-related offenses to seal their records.
- Allow for the sealing of records if a petitioner has been convicted of other violent crimes.

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Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)

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THIS BILL IS SUPPORTED BY:

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The Clean Slate Initiative

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