

CLEAN SLATE IN MAINE



THE PROBLEM

One out of every four adults in Maine have an arrest or conviction record that creates barriers to employment, housing, and education. Most are for old arrests, acquittals, or low-level convictions – not serious offenses. Even after taking responsibility for a mistake and paying their dues, hundreds of thousands of Mainers are never able to fully turn their lives around.

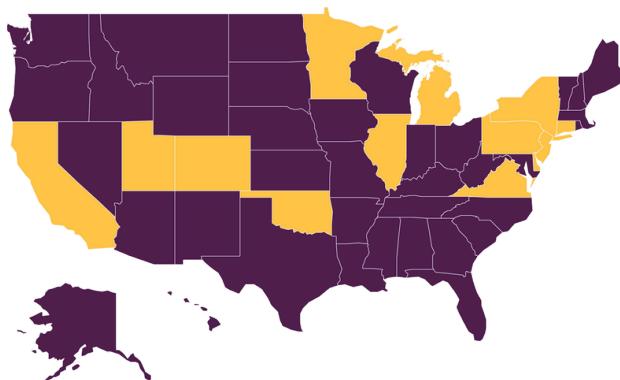
Research shows that **94% of employers, 90% of landlords, and 72% of colleges and universities** nationwide conduct background checks to screen applicants.

THE SOLUTION

Clean Slate offers a fair shot at redemption. By passing LD 1911, Maine can create an automated system to seal eligible arrest or conviction records for individuals who meet the requirements, which includes remaining crime-free for a period of time.

To date, **13 states and Washington, D.C., have passed Clean Slate laws, making more than 18 million people eligible** for full or partial record sealing across America.

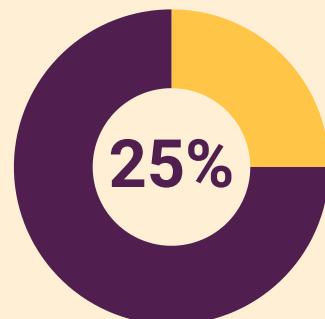
Clean Slate isn't about erasing the past. It's about ensuring people who've completed their sentence and remained crime-free aren't permanently held back by it.



 = CLEAN SLATE STATE

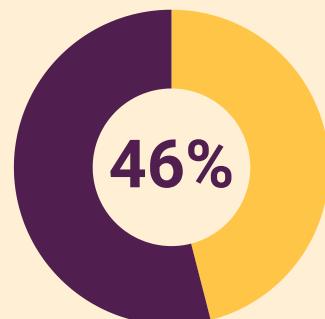
300,000

adults (25%) in Maine have an arrest or conviction record.



123,000

adults with a record in Maine (46%) could become eligible to have their record fully sealed with Clean Slate legislation.



The statistics above are estimated by CSI.

Learn more about the data and methodology by visiting CSI's Data Dashboard at cleanslateinitiative.org/data.

More info on next page 

CLEAN SLATE IS A WIN FOR MAINE

Cuts Red Tape: Clean Slate legislation streamlines the process by reducing bureaucracy and making the system work more efficiently for everyone.

Improves Public Safety: Clean Slate is far from a free pass — it's about making sure those who have taken responsibility for past mistakes can move forward after doing all that's been asked of them. Automated processes are rigorously tested, monitored, and supplemented with human oversight. Although sealed records are not publicly available, they remain visible to law enforcement and courts.

Strengthens Our Economy: Clean Slate laws expand the workforce, helping businesses find the best employees and creating opportunities for workers to earn higher wages. This puts more money in the pockets of American families and reduces dependence on government assistance.

ABOUT LD 1911

LD 1911, An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes, is designed to streamline the state's record sealing system by automating the expungement of old, eligible arrest and conviction records.

- **Eligible Misdemeanor Convictions** would be sealed after a 5 year conviction-free waiting period.
- **Non-convictions** (dismissals, acquittals, etc.) would be sealed six months after the case is closed.
- **Older marijuana offenses** (before 1/30/2017) would be sealed after a 5 year conviction-free waiting period.

EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

- **Does not apply to violent crimes:** Serious crimes of violence, sex offenses, and crimes against children remain permanently public.
- **Does not erase records:** Records are sealed from public view but remain accessible to law enforcement and courts.
- **Certain parties will retain access to sealed records:** victims, criminal justice agencies, the Secretary of State, financial service regulatory agencies, professional licensing agencies, and financial institutions.

This information was prepared by The Clean Slate Initiative (CSI).

For more information, email campaigns@cleanslateinitiative.org.