

# CLEAN SLATE IN MASSACHUSETTS



## THE PROBLEM

Nearly one in five adults in Massachusetts have an **conviction or non-conviction record** that creates barriers to employment, housing, and education. Many are convictions for which people have already completed their sentences but continue to face lifelong barriers. Even after taking responsibility, hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents are not able to overcome harm from their records.

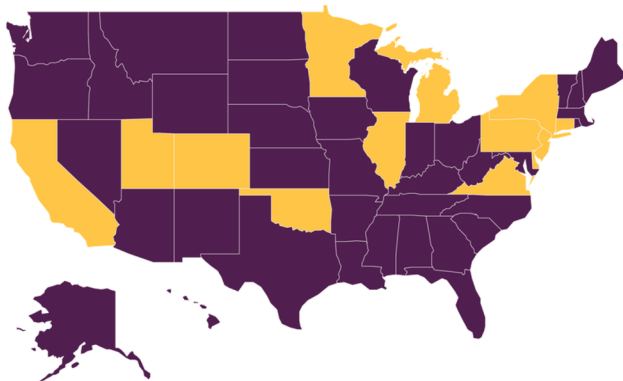
Clean Slate legislation is matter of urgency. Research shows less than 10% of people who are eligible seal their records, but **94% of employers, 90% of landlords, and 72% of colleges and universities** conduct background checks.

## THE SOLUTION

**Clean Slate offers a fair shot at redemption** by creating an automated system to seal eligible conviction or non-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.

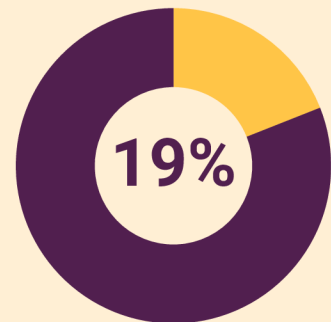
Clean Slate isn't about erasing the past. **It's about ensuring people who've completed their sentence and remained crime-free aren't permanently held back.**



 = CLEAN SLATE STATE

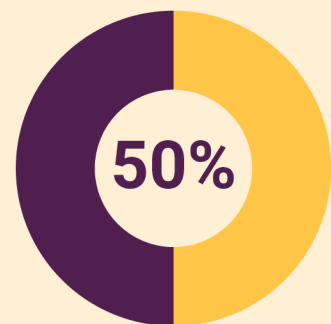
## 1.1 million

adults (19%) in Massachusetts have an conviction or non-conviction record.



## 523,000

adults with a record in Massachusetts (50%) 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](https://cleanslateinitiative.org/data).

More info on next page



# CLEAN SLATE IS A WIN FOR MASSACHUSETTS

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**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.

**Strengthens Our Economy:** Clean Slate laws expand the workforce, address worker shortages hurting certain industries, help businesses find the best employees and create opportunities for workers to earn higher wages. This puts more money in the pockets of families and reduces dependence on government assistance.

## ABOUT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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**S.1114 / H.1811**, *An Act requiring clean slate automated record sealing*, is designed to streamline the state's record sealing system by automating the sealing of eligible records.

- **Eligible misdemeanor convictions and non-convictions** would be sealed after a 3 year conviction-free waiting period.
- **Eligible Felony convictions and non-convictions** would be sealed after a 7 year conviction-free waiting period.

## EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

- **Records excluded from automated sealing** include sex offenses, and firearms/weapons offenses,
- **Does not erase records:** Records are sealed from public view but remain accessible to law enforcement and courts.

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

For more information, email [campaigns@cleanslateinitiative.org](mailto:campaigns@cleanslateinitiative.org).

