87R9432 JSC-D

By:  Crockett H.B. No. 1944

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to automatic expunction of arrest records and files for certain persons who are tried for an offense and subsequently acquitted.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 1, Article 55.02, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1.  The [~~At the request of the acquitted person and after notice to the state, or at the request of the attorney for the state with the consent of the acquitted person, the~~] trial court presiding over the case in which the person was acquitted, if the trial court is a district court, a justice court, or a municipal court of record, or a district court in the county in which the trial court is located shall enter an order of expunction for a person entitled to expunction under Article 55.01(a)(1)(A) not later than the 30th day after the date of the acquittal. [~~On acquittal, the trial court shall advise the acquitted person of the right to expunction. The party requesting the order of expunction shall provide to the court all of the information required in a petition for expunction under Section 2(b).~~] The attorney for the acquitted person in the case in which the person was acquitted, if the person was represented by counsel, or the attorney for the state, if the person was not represented by counsel or if the attorney for the state requested the order of expunction, shall prepare the order for the court's signature. If the trial court is not a district court, a justice court, or a municipal court of record, the trial court shall forward the proposed order, and all information required in a petition for expunction under Section 2(b), to a district court in the county to proceed in the manner provided by this section.

SECTION 2.  (a) This Act applies to the expunction of arrest records and files for a person entitled to that expunction under Article 55.01(a)(1)(A), Code of Criminal Procedure, before, on, or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of when the underlying arrest occurred.

(b)  For a person who is entitled to expunction under Article 55.01(a)(1)(A), Code of Criminal Procedure, based on an acquittal that occurred before the effective date of this Act, notwithstanding the 30-day time limit provided for the court to enter an automatic order of expunction under Section 1, Article 55.02, Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by this Act, the court shall enter an order of expunction for the person as soon as practicable after the court receives written notice from any party to the case about the person's entitlement to the expunction.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.