

By: Collier

H.B. No. 859

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the expunction of all records and files related to arrests for certain decriminalized misdemeanor offenses.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 55, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 55.012 to read as follows:

Art. 55.012. EXPUNCTION OF DECRIMINALIZED MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES. (a) A person who has been placed under a custodial or noncustodial arrest for an offense is entitled to the expunction of all records and files related to the arrest, including, as applicable, any records and files related to a conviction of the offense, if:

(1) the person is convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision under Subchapter C, Chapter 42A, for the offense for which the person was arrested;

(2) the offense for which the person was arrested was a misdemeanor offense and the conduct that was the subject of the offense as applied to the person has been decriminalized subsequent to the date of the commission of the offense; and

(3) as applicable:

(A) the person's sentence, including any term of confinement or period of community supervision imposed and payment of all fines and costs imposed, is finally discharged; or

(B) the person received a discharge and dismissal

1 under Article 42A.111, Code of Criminal Procedure, for the offense.

2 (b) The person must submit an ex parte petition for
3 expunction to the court that convicted the person or placed the
4 person on deferred adjudication community supervision. The
5 petition must be verified and must contain the information
6 described by Section 2(b), Article 55.02.

7 (c) At a hearing held on a petition for expunction under
8 this article, the court may require the petitioner to demonstrate
9 that the offense that is the subject of the petition qualifies as a
10 decriminalized offense under current law. The demonstration may
11 include an affidavit signed by the petitioner attesting to the fact
12 that the offense that is the subject of the petition qualifies as a
13 decriminalized offense under current law.

14 (d) If the court finds that the petitioner is entitled to
15 expunction of the records and files that are the subject of the
16 petition, the court shall enter an order directing expunction in a
17 manner consistent with the procedures described by Section 1a,
18 Article 55.02.

19 (e) Notwithstanding any other law, the law enforcement
20 agency, the prosecuting attorney responsible for investigating the
21 offense, and the clerk of the applicable court may retain the
22 records and files relating to the arrest for the offense, including
23 any records and files related to a conviction of the offense, to be
24 used only:

25 (1) for the investigation or prosecution of another
26 offense arising out of the same transaction for which the person was
27 arrested; or

1 (2) by the office of the governor in determining
2 whether to issue a pardon or commute a sentence.

3 (f) The records and files for which an order of expunction
4 has been issued under this article are not open for inspection by
5 anyone, except that the records and files are open for inspection by
6 the person who is the subject of the order or for the purposes
7 described by Subsection (e).

8 SECTION 2. Section 109.005(a), Business & Commerce Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (a) A business entity may not publish any criminal record
11 information in the business entity's possession with respect to
12 which the business entity has knowledge or has received notice
13 that:

14 (1) an order of expunction has been issued under
15 Chapter 55 [Article 55.02], Code of Criminal Procedure; or

16 (2) an order of nondisclosure of criminal history
17 record information has been issued under Subchapter E-1, Chapter
18 411, Government Code.

19 SECTION 3. Article 55.011(b), Code of Criminal Procedure,
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 (b) A close relative of a deceased person who, if not
22 deceased, would be entitled to expunction of records and files
23 under this chapter [Article 55.01] may file on behalf of the
24 deceased person an ex parte petition for expunction under Section 2
25 or 2a, Article 55.02, or Article 55.012, as applicable. If the
26 court finds that the deceased person would be entitled to
27 expunction of any record or file that is the subject of the

1 petition, the court shall enter an order directing expunction.

2 SECTION 4. Article 102.006(b), Code of Criminal Procedure,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (b) The fees under Subsection (a) or the fee under
5 Subsection (a-1), as applicable, shall be waived if:

6 (1) the petitioner seeks expunction of a criminal
7 record that relates to an arrest for an offense of which the person
8 was acquitted, other than an acquittal for an offense described by
9 Article 55.01(c), and the petition for expunction is filed not
10 later than the 30th day after the date of the acquittal; or

11 (2) the petitioner is entitled to expunction under
12 Article 55.012.

13 SECTION 5. Section 411.0835, Government Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 Sec. 411.0835. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISSEMINATION TO
16 CERTAIN PRIVATE ENTITIES. If the department receives information
17 indicating that a private entity that purchases criminal history
18 record information from the department has been found by a court to
19 have committed three or more violations of Section 552.1425 by
20 compiling or disseminating information with respect to which an
21 order of expunction has been issued under Chapter 55 [~~Article~~
22 ~~55.02~~], Code of Criminal Procedure, or an order of nondisclosure of
23 criminal history record information has been issued under
24 Subchapter E-1, the department may not release any criminal history
25 record information to that entity until the first anniversary of
26 the date of the most recent violation.

27 SECTION 6. Section 411.0851(a), Government Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (a) A private entity that compiles and disseminates for
3 compensation criminal history record information shall destroy and
4 may not disseminate any information in the possession of the entity
5 with respect to which the entity has received notice that:

6 (1) an order of expunction has been issued under
7 Chapter 55 [~~Article 55.02~~], Code of Criminal Procedure; or

8 (2) an order of nondisclosure of criminal history
9 record information has been issued under Subchapter E-1.

10 SECTION 7. Section 411.151(b), Government Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (b) A person may petition for the expunction of a DNA record
13 under the procedures established under Article 55.02, Code of
14 Criminal Procedure, if the person is entitled to the expunction of
15 records relating to the offense to which the DNA record is related
16 under Chapter 55 [~~Article 55.01~~], Code of Criminal Procedure.

17 SECTION 8. Section 552.1425(a), Government Code, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 (a) A private entity that compiles and disseminates for
20 compensation criminal history record information may not compile or
21 disseminate information with respect to which the entity has
22 received notice that:

23 (1) an order of expunction has been issued under
24 Chapter 55 [~~Article 55.02~~], Code of Criminal Procedure; or

25 (2) an order of nondisclosure of criminal history
26 record information has been issued under Subchapter E-1, Chapter
27 411.

1 SECTION 9. This Act applies to an expunction of arrest
2 records and files relating to any misdemeanor offense that was
3 committed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

4 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.