

By: Canales

H.B. No. 3477

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the expunction of all records and files related to a finding of criminal contempt by a court.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 55A.007 to read as follows:

Art. 55A.007. CRIMINAL CONTEMPT. (a) Notwithstanding the limitation provided by Article 55A.001, a person who has been found in criminal contempt is entitled to the expunction of all records and files related to the contempt if a period of not less than 2 years has passed since the date on which the person was found in contempt.

(b) For purposes of Subchapters F through J, a reference to "arrest" includes the taking into custody of a person found in criminal contempt.

SECTION 2. Article 55A.251, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 55A.251. FILING OF PETITION. (a) A person who is entitled to expunction of records and files under Article 55A.002, 55A.004, or 55A.005 or Subchapter B, or a person who is eligible for expunction of records and files under Article 55A.101, may, subject to Article 55A.252, file an ex parte petition for expunction in a district court for the county in which:

(1) the petitioner was arrested; or

1           (2) the offense was alleged to have occurred.

2           **(b) A person who is entitled to expunction of records and**  
3 **files under Article 55A.007 may file an ex parte petition for**  
4 **expunction in the court that found the person in contempt.**

5           SECTION 3. Article [55A.257](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7           Art. 55A.257. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MAY FILE PETITION  
8 ON PERSON'S BEHALF. The director of the Department of Public Safety  
9 or the director's authorized representative may file on behalf of a  
10 person described by Article [55A.251\(a\)](#) [~~55A.251~~] or [55A.256](#) an ex  
11 parte petition for expunction in a district court for the county in  
12 which:

13           (1) the person was arrested; or

14           (2) the offense was alleged to have occurred.

15           SECTION 4. This Act applies to an expunction of arrest  
16 records and files relating to a finding of criminal contempt that  
17 occurred before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

18           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.