



State of Connecticut
Office of Governor Ned Lamont

BILL NOTIFICATION 2021-15

June 10, 2021

Governor Lamont signed the following legislation of the 2021 Regular Session on June 10:

HB 6107
PA 21-29

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ZONING ENABLING ACT, ACCESSORY APARTMENTS, TRAINING FOR CERTAIN LAND USE OFFICIALS, MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANS AND A COMMISSION ON CONNECTICUT'S DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE.

HB 6491
PA 21-31

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS.

SB 1019
PA 21-32

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES.

Upon signing this bill, Governor Lamont delivered a letter to the members of the General Assembly regarding its enactment. That letter can be found on page 2 of this document.

SB 1093
PA 21-33

AN ACT CONCERNING CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARDS, SECURITY GUARDS, BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT, SEARCHES BY POLICE, LIMITATIONS ON OFFENSES SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC ERASURE, ENTICING A JUVENILE TO COMMIT A CRIME, LAWFUL ORDERS BY POLICE OFFICERS AND NOTICE TO A VICTIM CONCERNING AUTOMATIC ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORD HISTORY.

HB 6531
PA 21-34

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN EVICTION PROCEEDINGS, THE VALIDITY OF INLAND WETLANDS PERMITS IN RELATION TO CERTAIN OTHER LAND USE APPROVALS, AND EXTENDING THE TIME OF EXPIRATION OF CERTAIN LAND USE PERMITS.

As of this date, the governor has signed forty-two (42) bills of the 2021 Regular Session.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 10, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

Today I am signing the clean slate bill, Senate Bill 1019, *An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Erasure of Criminal Records for Certain Misdemeanor and Felony Offenses, Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Erased Criminal History Record Information and Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Misdemeanor Sentences.*

I proposed clean slate legislation last year, and continue to support the concept. The collateral consequences of a criminal record last long after a person has served his or her sentence, and even after they continue to lead a crime-free life. In these circumstances, a criminal record should not hinder an individual's ability to obtain an education, employment, professional licensure, public benefits, and housing. Someone who has served his or her sentence deserves a fair chance at meaningful employment and stable housing.

Under current law, there are two methods by which an individual can get his or her criminal record erased by the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The first method, for which people with virtually all types of convictions are eligible, requires the individual to submit a pardons application and have a full, in-person hearing before the Board.

The second option, for which people with non-violent convictions are eligible, provided there is no victim interest in the case, is an expedited process, and requires the individual to submit a pardons application but not to appear for an in-person hearing before the Board.

This legislation creates a third option. Under this legislation, people with criminal convictions will get their records erased automatically after a set period of time. They will not have to apply for a pardon or appear before the Board. Instead, an individual is eligible for automatic erasure seven years after the date of a conviction for a misdemeanor or ten years after the date of a conviction for certain class D or E felonies or unclassified felonies with prison terms of five years or less.

Although certain categories of crimes such as sexually violent offenses or crimes designated as family violence crimes are not subject to erasure under this legislation, I continue to have concerns that more felonies were not excluded. I also am concerned that the erased records will not be available to criminal justice agencies to consider in determining whether to issue a gun permit or to the Judicial Branch in the event the individual is someday back in court. I call on the legislature to address these concerns

Despite these concerns, I am proud to sign a bill that will help people who have served their sentence and who have continued to live crime-free lives. Enacting this legislation adds to Connecticut's accomplishments as a national leader in criminal justice reform. It also addresses well-documented collateral consequences of a criminal conviction and lowers barriers for people seeking to move on with their life and past their involvement with the criminal justice system.

Sincerely,



Ned Lamont
Governor, State of Connecticut