

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signature of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.

An Act

HOUSE BILL 07-1107

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Cerbo, Butcher, Carroll M., Carroll T., Gallegos, Jahn, Labuda, McFadyen, and Todd;
also SENATOR(S) Bacon, and Groff.

CONCERNING THE SEALING OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECORDS, AND MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 24-72-308 (1) (a) (III), (2), and (3) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

24-72-308. Sealing of arrest and criminal records other than convictions. (1) (a) (III) A person in interest may petition the district court of the district in which any arrest and criminal records information pertaining to said person in interest is located for the sealing of all of said records, except basic identification information, if the records are a record of official actions involving a criminal offense that was not charged or a case that was dismissed due to a plea agreement in a separate case, and if:

(A) The petition is filed ~~fifteen~~ TEN years or more after the date of the final disposition of all criminal proceedings against the person in interest; and

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(B) The person in interest has not been charged for ~~any~~ A criminal offense in the ~~fifteen~~ TEN years since the date of the final disposition of all criminal proceedings against the person in interest.

(2) **Advisements.** (a) Whenever a defendant HAS APPEARED BEFORE THE COURT AND has charges against him OR HER dismissed OR NOT FILED, OR WHENEVER THE DEFENDANT is acquitted, ~~or is sentenced following a conviction~~, the court shall provide him OR HER with a written advisement of his OR HER rights PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION concerning the sealing of his OR HER criminal justice records if he OR SHE complies with the applicable provisions of this section.

(b) IN ADDITION TO, AND NOT IN LIEU OF, THE REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2):

(I) IF A DEFENDANT'S CASE IS DISMISSED AFTER A PERIOD OF SUPERVISION BY PROBATION, THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT, UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE DEFENDANT'S PROBATION, SHALL PROVIDE THE DEFENDANT WITH A WRITTEN ADVISEMENT OF HIS OR HER RIGHTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION CONCERNING THE SEALING OF HIS OR HER CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECORDS IF HE OR SHE COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(II) IF A DEFENDANT IS RELEASED ON PAROLE, THE DEFENDANT'S PAROLE OFFICER, UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE DEFENDANT'S PAROLE, SHALL PROVIDE THE DEFENDANT WITH A WRITTEN ADVISEMENT OF HIS OR HER RIGHTS CONCERNING THE SEALING OF HIS OR HER CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECORDS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF HE OR SHE COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(3) **Exceptions.** (a) This section shall not apply to records pertaining to:

(I) ~~Any~~ A class 1 or class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense;

(II) ~~Any~~ A class A or class B traffic infraction; or

(III) ~~Any~~ A conviction for a violation of section 42-4-1301 (1) or (2), C.R.S.

SECTION 2. Part 3 of article 72 of title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

24-72-308.5. Sealing of criminal conviction records information.

(1) **Definitions.** FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "CONVICTION RECORDS" MEANS ARREST AND CRIMINAL RECORDS INFORMATION AND ANY RECORDS PERTAINING TO A JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION.

(2) **Sealing of conviction records.** (a) (I) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION, A DEFENDANT MAY PETITION THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT IN WHICH ANY CONVICTION RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE DEFENDANT ARE LOCATED FOR THE SEALING OF THE CONVICTION RECORDS, EXCEPT BASIC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, IF:

(A) THE PETITION IS FILED TEN OR MORE YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF ALL CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE DEFENDANT OR THE RELEASE OF THE DEFENDANT FROM SUPERVISION CONCERNING A CRIMINAL CONVICTION, WHICHEVER IS LATER; AND

(B) THE DEFENDANT HAS NOT BEEN CHARGED OR CONVICTED FOR A CRIMINAL OFFENSE IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE THE DATE OF THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF ALL CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM OR HER.

(II) AN ORDER SEALING CONVICTION RECORDS SHALL NOT DENY ACCESS TO THE CRIMINAL RECORDS OF A DEFENDANT BY ANY COURT, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY, ANY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, OR ANY PARTY OR AGENCY REQUIRED BY LAW TO CONDUCT A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK ON AN INDIVIDUAL. AN ORDER SEALING CONVICTION RECORDS SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO VACATE A CONVICTION. A CONVICTION SEALED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE USED BY ANY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, COURT, OR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION OF ANY CRIMINAL CASE OR FOR ANY OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR DUTIES. ANY PARTY OR AGENCY REQUIRED BY LAW TO CONDUCT A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO USE ANY SEALED CONVICTION FOR THE LAWFUL PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK IS REQUIRED BY LAW.

(III) CONVICTION RECORDS MAY NOT BE SEALED IF THE DEFENDANT STILL OWES RESTITUTION, FINES, COURT COSTS, LATE FEES, OR OTHER FEES ORDERED BY THE COURT IN THE CASE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE PETITION TO SEAL CONVICTION RECORDS, UNLESS THE COURT THAT ENTERED THE ORDER FOR RESTITUTION, FINES, COURT COSTS, LATE FEES, OR OTHER FEES HAS VACATED THE ORDER.

(b) (I) A PETITION TO SEAL CONVICTION RECORDS SHALL INCLUDE A LISTING OF EACH CUSTODIAN OF THE RECORDS TO WHOM THE SEALING ORDER IS DIRECTED AND ANY INFORMATION THAT ACCURATELY AND COMPLETELY IDENTIFIES THE RECORDS TO BE SEALED. A VERIFIED COPY OF THE PETITIONER'S CRIMINAL HISTORY, CURRENT THROUGH AT LEAST THE TWENTIETH DAY PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE FILING OF THE PETITION, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT BY THE PETITIONER ALONG WITH THE PETITION AT THE TIME OF FILING, BUT IN NO EVENT LATER THAN THE TENTH DAY AFTER THE PETITION IS FILED. THE PETITIONER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING AND PAYING FOR HIS OR HER CRIMINAL HISTORY.

(II) (A) UPON THE FILING OF A PETITION, THE COURT SHALL REVIEW THE PETITION AND DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE GROUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION TO PROCEED TO A HEARING ON THE PETITION. IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THE PETITION ON ITS FACE IS INSUFFICIENT OR IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT, AFTER TAKING JUDICIAL NOTICE OF MATTERS OUTSIDE THE PETITION, THE PETITIONER IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELIEF UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL ENTER AN ORDER DENYING THE PETITION AND MAIL A COPY OF THE ORDER TO THE PETITIONER. THE COURT'S ORDER SHALL SPECIFY THE REASONS FOR THE DENIAL OF THE PETITION.

(B) IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THE PETITION IS SUFFICIENT ON ITS FACE AND THAT NO OTHER GROUNDS EXIST AT THAT TIME FOR THE COURT TO DENY THE PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL SET A DATE FOR A HEARING, AND THE PETITIONER SHALL NOTIFY THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY BY CERTIFIED MAIL, THE ARRESTING AGENCY, AND ANY OTHER PERSON OR AGENCY IDENTIFIED BY THE PETITIONER.

(c) AFTER THE HEARING DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS CONDUCTED AND IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE HARM TO THE PRIVACY OF THE PETITIONER OR THE DANGERS OF UNWARRANTED, ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES TO THE PETITIONER OUTWEIGH THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN RETAINING THE CONVICTION RECORDS, THE COURT

MAY ORDER THE CONVICTION RECORDS, EXCEPT BASIC IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION, TO BE SEALED. AN ORDER ENTERED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (c) SHALL BE DIRECTED TO EACH CUSTODIAN WHO MAY HAVE CUSTODY OF ANY PART OF THE CONVICTION RECORDS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE ORDER. WHENEVER A COURT ENTERS AN ORDER SEALING CONVICTION RECORDS PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (c), THE PETITIONER SHALL PROVIDE THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND EACH CUSTODIAN OF THE CONVICTION RECORDS WITH A COPY OF THE ORDER. THEREAFTER, THE PETITIONER MAY REQUEST AND THE COURT MAY GRANT AN ORDER SEALING THE CIVIL CASE IN WHICH THE CONVICTION RECORDS WERE SEALED.

(d) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), UPON THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER TO SEAL THE CONVICTION RECORDS, THE PETITIONER AND ALL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES MAY PROPERLY REPLY, UPON AN INQUIRY IN THE MATTER, THAT CONVICTION RECORDS DO NOT EXIST WITH RESPECT TO THE PERSON WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE SEALED CONVICTION RECORDS.

(e) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), INSPECTION OF THE RECORDS INCLUDED IN AN ORDER SEALING CONVICTION RECORDS MAY THEREAFTER BE PERMITTED BY THE COURT ONLY UPON PETITION BY THE DEFENDANT.

(f) (I) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (f), EMPLOYERS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OFFICIALS, LANDLORDS, AND EMPLOYEES SHALL NOT, IN ANY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW OR IN ANY OTHER WAY, REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN SEALED CONVICTION RECORDS. AN APPLICANT NEED NOT, IN ANSWER TO ANY QUESTION CONCERNING CONVICTION RECORDS THAT HAVE BEEN SEALED, INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO OR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SEALED CONVICTION RECORDS AND MAY STATE THAT THE APPLICANT HAS NOT BEEN CRIMINALLY CONVICTED. AN APPLICATION MAY NOT BE DENIED SOLELY BECAUSE OF THE APPLICANT'S REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE CONVICTION RECORDS THAT HAVE BEEN SEALED.

(II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (f) SHALL NOT PRECLUDE THE BAR COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS FROM MAKING FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THE FACT OF A

CONVICTION THAT COMES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BAR COMMITTEE THROUGH OTHER MEANS. THE BAR COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO INQUIRE INTO THE MORAL AND ETHICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APPLICANT, AND THE APPLICANT SHALL NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO PRIVACY OR PRIVILEGE THAT JUSTIFIES HIS OR HER REFUSAL TO ANSWER A QUESTION CONCERNING SEALED CONVICTION RECORDS THAT HAVE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BAR COMMITTEE THROUGH OTHER MEANS.

(III) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (f) SHALL NOT APPLY TO A CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY OR TO AN APPLICANT TO A CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY.

(IV) ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY PETITION THE COURT TO UNSEAL ANY FILE THAT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY SEALED UPON A SHOWING THAT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE COME INTO EXISTENCE SINCE THE ORIGINAL SEALING AND, AS A RESULT, THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN DISCLOSURE NOW OUTWEIGHS THE SUBJECT'S INTEREST IN PRIVACY.

(g) THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A LIST OF ALL PETITIONS TO SEAL CONVICTION RECORDS THAT ARE FILED WITH A DISTRICT COURT. A DISTRICT COURT MAY NOT GRANT A PETITION TO SEAL CONVICTION RECORDS UNTIL AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE POSTING. AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THIRTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING, THE PETITION TO SEAL CONVICTION RECORDS AND INFORMATION PERTINENT THERETO SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE WEBSITE OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR.

(h) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO AUTHORIZE THE PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION OF ANY CONVICTION RECORDS.

(3) **Advisements.** (a) WHENEVER A DEFENDANT IS SENTENCED FOLLOWING A CONVICTION, THE COURT SHALL PROVIDE HIM OR HER WITH A WRITTEN ADVISEMENT OF HIS OR HER RIGHTS CONCERNING THE SEALING OF HIS OR HER CONVICTION RECORDS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF HE OR SHE COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(b) IN ADDITION TO, AND NOT IN LIEU OF, THE REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3):

(I) IF A DEFENDANT IS SENTENCED TO PROBATION, THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT, UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE DEFENDANT'S PROBATION, SHALL PROVIDE THE DEFENDANT WITH A WRITTEN ADVISEMENT OF HIS OR HER RIGHTS CONCERNING THE SEALING OF HIS OR HER CONVICTION RECORDS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF HE OR SHE COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(II) IF A DEFENDANT IS RELEASED ON PAROLE, THE DEFENDANT'S PAROLE OFFICER, UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE DEFENDANT'S PAROLE, SHALL PROVIDE THE DEFENDANT WITH A WRITTEN ADVISEMENT OF HIS OR HER RIGHTS CONCERNING THE SEALING OF HIS OR HER CONVICTION RECORDS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF HE OR SHE COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(4) **Exceptions.** (a) THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO RECORDS PERTAINING TO:

(I) A CLASS 1 OR CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR TRAFFIC OFFENSE;

(II) A CLASS A OR CLASS B TRAFFIC INFRACTION;

(III) A CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION OF SECTION 42-4-1301 (1) OR (2), C.R.S.;

(IV) A CONVICTION OF AN OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE FACTUAL BASIS INVOLVED UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-22-102 (9), C.R.S.;

(V) A CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION OF SECTION 18-6-401, C.R.S.;
OR

(VI) A CONVICTION THAT IS SUBJECT TO SENTENCING UNDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

(A) SENTENCING FOR A CRIME INVOLVING EXTRAORDINARY AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-401 (8), C.R.S.;

(B) SENTENCING FOR A CRIME INVOLVING SENTENCE-ENHANCING CIRCUMSTANCES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-401 (9), C.R.S.;

(C) SENTENCING FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY RISK CRIME, PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-401 (10), C.R.S.;

(D) SENTENCING FOR A CRIME INVOLVING A PREGNANT VICTIM, PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-401 (13), C.R.S.;

(E) SENTENCING FOR A CRIME PERTAINING TO A SPECIAL OFFENDER, PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-18-407, C.R.S.;

(F) SENTENCING FOR A CRIMINAL CONVICTION FOR WHICH THE UNDERLYING FACTUAL BASIS INVOLVES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-6-800.3, C.R.S.;

(G) SENTENCING FOR A CRIMINAL CONVICTION FOR A SEXUAL OFFENSE, PURSUANT TO PART 4 OF ARTICLE 3 OF TITLE 18, C.R.S.

(b) COURT ORDERS SEALING RECORDS OF OFFICIAL ACTIONS ENTERED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT LIMIT THE OPERATION OF RULES OF DISCOVERY PROMULGATED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO.

(c) THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO CONVICTION RECORDS IN THE POSSESSION AND CUSTODY OF A CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY WHEN AN INQUIRY CONCERNING THE CONVICTION RECORDS IS MADE BY ANOTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY.

(5) (a) **Applicability.** EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5), THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO CONVICTION RECORDS PERTAINING TO JUDGMENTS OF CONVICTION ENTERED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2007.

(b) FOR ANY CONVICTION PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2007, FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT WOULD QUALIFY FOR RELIEF UNDER THIS SECTION, THE DEFENDANT MAY OBTAIN AN ORDER FROM THE COURT TO SEAL CONVICTION RECORDS IF:

(I) THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE SEALING;
AND

(II) THE DEFENDANT PAYS TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY ALL REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS OF THE

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY RELATING TO THE PETITION TO SEAL PRIOR TO THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER SEALING THE CRIMINAL RECORDS; AND

(III) THE DEFENDANT PAYS:

(A) THE FILING FEE REQUIRED BY LAW; AND

(B) AN ADDITIONAL FILING FEE OF TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS TO COVER THE ACTUAL COSTS RELATED TO THE FILING OF THE PETITION TO SEAL RECORDS.

(c) THE ADDITIONAL FILING FEES COLLECTED UNDER SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5) SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER FOR DEPOSIT IN THE JUDICIAL STABILIZATION CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-32-101 (1.5), C.R.S.

SECTION 3. Appropriation. In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (1.5), Colorado Revised Statutes, not otherwise appropriated, to the judicial department, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, the sum of four hundred fifty-five thousand six hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$455,679) and 6.5 FTE, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 4. Effective date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,

determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

APPROVED _____

Bill Ritter, Jr.
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO