

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY
REDUCTION TASK FORCE

After consideration on the merits, the Task Force recommends the following:

BILL #3 - LLS No. 10-0239 be amended as follows:

1 Amend BILL 3 (LLS No. 10-0239), page 2, after line 1, insert:

2 "SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general
3 assembly hereby finds that:

4 (a) It is in the public interest to eliminate or reduce barriers to
5 individuals who need primary identification documents in order to
6 achieve self-sufficiency and financial security;

7 (b) In many instances, citizens and legal residents need both a
8 certified birth certificate and a valid state identification card to access
9 public benefits, secure affordable housing, obtain employment, register
10 for school, and receive health care;

11 (c) The cost of obtaining these documents may present a
12 substantial barrier to indigent and low-income persons and their children;

13 (d) Because the lack of valid identification is an impediment to
14 successful re-entry and employment, which, as research shows, is linked
15 to lower recidivism, the fee to obtain such identification should be waived
16 for adult and juvenile offenders who cannot afford these documents upon
17 release from custody; and

18 (e) Individuals with a criminal conviction face barriers because:

19 (I) Eligibility for a state identification card requires an exact
20 match between the name on the birth certificate and other documents;

21 (II) While other individuals may petition the court for a name
22 change to resolve any discrepancy, persons convicted of a felony and
23 certain juvenile offenders are currently barred from legally changing their
24 names.

25 (2) Therefore, the general assembly finds that it is necessary and
26 appropriate to:

1 (a) Eliminate or reduce barriers to obtaining identity-related
2 documents to promote economic opportunity and reduce poverty in the
3 state; and

4 (b) Give court discretion to authorize a change of name for
5 persons convicted or adjudicated of certain crimes if the court is satisfied
6 that the change of name is appropriate."

7 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

8 Page 2, strike lines 14 and 15 and substitute "COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
9 SOCIAL SERVICES; OR".

10 Page 1, strike lines 101 and 102 and substitute: "**CONCERNING A**
11 **REDUCTION IN BARRIERS TO OBTAINING IDENTITY-RELATED**
12 **DOCUMENTS.**".

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