

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1831

5 By: Representatives Boyd, Crawford, Richardson, D. Whitaker  
6 By: Senator M. Pitsch  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL RECORD  
10 SEALING ACT OF 2013; TO PROVIDE AN EASIER PATHWAY FOR  
11 A PERSON TO SEAL CERTAIN OFFENSES; TO ANNOUNCE AN  
12 INTENT TO STUDY THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO A PERSON TO  
13 HAVE HIS OR HER RECORD SEALED; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.  
15  
16

## Subtitle

17  
18 TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL  
19 RECORD SEALING ACT OF 2013.  
20  
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

25 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to find an easier pathway  
26 for a person to seal his or her record of certain criminal offenses for which  
27 sealing is already an option.

28 (b) It is further the intent of the General Assembly to notify the  
29 public that this act is the first step in a multi-step process to attempt to  
30 make the sealing of certain records of a person's criminal history that  
31 involve nonviolent and nonsexual offenses an automatic operation.

32 (c) A study of the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013,  
33 § 16-90-1401 et seq., will be undertaken in the interim to propose any  
34 recommended or necessary legislation for the 2021 Regular Session, as well as  
35 an overall study of the funding of the criminal justice system, where  
36 applicable.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1405 is amended to read as follows:

16-90-1405. Eligibility to file a uniform petition to seal a misdemeanor offense or violation.

(a) A person is eligible to file a uniform petition under this subchapter to seal his or her record of a misdemeanor or violation ~~sixty (60) days~~ immediately after:

(1) The completion of his or her sentence for the misdemeanor or violation, including full payment of restitution;

(2) Full payment of court costs;

(3) Full payment of driver's license suspension reinstatement fees, if a driver's license suspension reinstatement fee was assessed as a result of the person's arrest or conviction for the misdemeanor or violation; and

(4) The completion of all other driver's license reinstatement requirements, if a driver's license suspension was imposed as a result of the person's arrest or conviction for the misdemeanor or violation.

(b) There is not a limit to the number of times a person may file a uniform petition to seal his or her record of a misdemeanor or violation, except that the person may not file:

(1) A new uniform petition to seal one (1) of the following criminal offenses until after a period of five (5) years has elapsed since the completion of the person's sentence for the conviction:

(A) Negligent homicide, § 5-10-105, if it was a Class A misdemeanor;

(B) Battery in the third degree, § 5-13-203;

(C) Indecent exposure, § 5-14-112;

(D) Public sexual indecency, § 5-14-111;

(E) Sexual assault in the fourth degree, § 5-14-127;

(F) Domestic battering in the third degree, § 5-26-305; or

(G) A misdemeanor violation of § 5-65-103;

(2) A new uniform petition to seal a criminal offense listed in subdivisions (b)(1)(A)-(G) of this section before one (1) year from the date of the order denying the previous uniform petition;

(3) A new uniform petition to seal ~~any other~~ a misdemeanor or violation before ninety (90) days from the date of an order denying a uniform

1 petition to seal the misdemeanor or violation;

2 (4) A new uniform petition to seal a misdemeanor or violation  
 3 under this section if an appeal of a previous denial of a uniform petition to  
 4 seal a misdemeanor or violation for the same misdemeanor or violation is  
 5 still pending; or

6 (5) A new uniform petition to seal a misdemeanor or violation  
 7 under this section if:

8 (A) The person was a holder of a commercial driver license  
 9 or commercial learner's permit at the time the misdemeanor or violation was  
 10 committed; and

11 (B) The misdemeanor or violation was a traffic offense,  
 12 other than a parking violation, vehicle weight violation, or vehicle defect  
 13 violation, committed in any type of motor vehicle.

14 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person is  
 15 eligible to file a uniform petition to seal a misdemeanor or violation under  
 16 this section even if his or her misdemeanor or violation occurred before  
 17 January 1, 2014.

18  
 19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1406 is amended to read as follows:  
 20 16-90-1406. Felony convictions eligible for sealing.

21 (a) Unless prohibited under § 16-90-1408, a person may petition a  
 22 court to seal a record of a conviction immediately after ~~five (5) years has~~  
 23 ~~elapsed since~~ the completion of the person's sentence for:

24 (1) A Class C felony or Class D felony;

25 (2) An unclassified felony;

26 (3) An offense under § 5-64-401 et seq. that is a Class A felony  
 27 or Class B felony;

28 (4) Solicitation to commit, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to  
 29 commit the substantive offenses listed in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this  
 30 section; or

31 (5) A felony not involving violence committed while the person  
 32 was less than eighteen (18) years of age.

33 (b)(1)(A) The petitioner can have no more than one (1) previous felony  
 34 conviction.

35 (B) For the sole purpose of calculating the number of  
 36 previous felony convictions under this section, all felony offenses that were

1 committed as part of the same criminal episode and for which the person was  
2 convicted are a single conviction.

3 (2) The fact that a prior felony conviction has been previously  
4 sealed shall not prevent its counting as a prior conviction for the purposes  
5 of this subsection.

6  
7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1419 is amended to read as follows:  
8 16-90-1419. Filing fee.

9 ~~(a) The circuit clerk or district court clerk shall not collect a fee~~  
10 ~~of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for filing the uniform petition unless the~~  
11 ~~petitioner is indigent and the fee is waived under Rule 72 of the Arkansas~~  
12 ~~Rules of Civil Procedure under this subchapter.~~

13 ~~(b) The circuit clerk or district court clerk shall remit:~~

14 ~~(1) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the fee by the tenth day of each month to~~  
15 ~~the Administration of Justice Funds Section of the Office of Administrative~~  
16 ~~Services of the Department of Finance and Administration on a form provided~~  
17 ~~by that office for deposit into the State Administration of Justice Fund; and~~

18 ~~(2) The remaining one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the fee as follows:~~

19 ~~(A) If collected in circuit court, to the county treasurer~~  
20 ~~to be deposited into the county general fund by the tenth day of each month;~~

21 ~~(B) If collected in district court, to the treasury of~~  
22 ~~each political subdivision that contributes to the expenses of the district~~  
23 ~~court based on the percentage of the expenses contributed by the political~~  
24 ~~subdivision by the tenth day of each month; or~~

25 ~~(C) In a district court funded solely by the county, to~~  
26 ~~the county treasurer of the county in which the district court is located to~~  
27 ~~be deposited into the county general fund by the tenth day of each month.~~