

S2513 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	SLP 10/21/24 1R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:		
ASSEMBLY:	No	
SENATE:	Yes	

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Ted Sherman - For Times of Trenton, 'Deal struck to promptly erase slates of minor crimes In groundbreaking N.J.settlement, State Police agrees to expedite expungement of records for thousands.', *Times, The* (online), 15 Mar 2025001 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/19F54D764AF49890>>

Dave D'Alessandro star- ledger editrial board, 'Rethinking criminal justice with new Public Defender', *Jersey Journal, The* (online), 20 Feb 2024 003 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/197518FDA544B5E0>>

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 38, *approved March 31, 2025*
Assembly, No. 3881 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and ³[amending P.L.1985, ¹[c.169] c.69¹
3 supplementing chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
4 Statutes³.
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:
8

9 ³[1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, ¹[c.169] c.69¹ (C.53:1-20.6) is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
12 Attorney General, shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
13 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations
14 authorizing the dissemination, by the State Bureau of Identification, of
15 criminal history record background information requested by State,
16 county and local government agencies, including the Division of State
17 Police, in noncriminal matters, or requested by individuals,
18 nongovernmental entities or other governmental entities whose access
19 to such criminal history record background information is not
20 prohibited by law. A fee not to exceed \$30 shall be imposed for
21 processing fingerprint identification checks; a fee not to exceed \$18
22 shall be imposed for processing criminal history name search
23 identification checks. These fees shall be in addition to any other fees
24 required by law. In addition to any fee specified herein, a
25 nonrefundable fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the
26 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
27 General, shall be collected to cover the cost of securing and processing
28 a federal criminal records check for each applicant.

29 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
30 Division of State Police, and nongovernmental entities are authorized
31 to impose and collect the processing fee established pursuant to
32 subsection a. of this section from the person for whom the criminal
33 history record background check is being processed or from the party
34 requesting the criminal history record background check. The
35 Superintendent of State Police shall provide this processing service
36 without the collection of fees from the applicants in processing
37 background checks of prospective resource family parents or members
38 of their immediate families. In such cases, the Department of Children
39 and Families shall be responsible for paying the fees imposed pursuant

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted May 20, 2024.

²Senate SLP committee amendments adopted October 21, 2024.

³Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations March 20, 2025.

1 to subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit
2 the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
3 General, from providing this processing service without the collection
4 of fees from the applicant in other circumstances which in his sole
5 discretion he deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a
6 wage or salary for the time and services they provide to an
7 organization or who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances
8 where the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
9 Attorney General, determines to provide this processing service
10 without the collection of fees to the individual applicants, the
11 superintendent may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf
12 of the applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
13 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
14 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
15 for the processing fee to the Division of State Police.

16 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
17 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall verify
18 whether the person to whom the background information pertains has
19 been granted an order of expungement by ²[the Superior Court ¹,¹
20 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. ¹or subsection m. of N.J.S.2C:35-
21 14,¹] law² which has not yet been processed by the State Bureau of
22 Identification. In the case of an unprocessed order of expungement, the
23 State Bureau of Identification ²shall² ¹[update its records to reflect the
24 expungement prior to disseminating criminal history record
25 background information pursuant to subsection a. of this section]
26 promptly respond to the request for criminal history record
27 background information pursuant to subsection a. of this section,
28 except that the response shall not contain any criminal history record
29 background information, nor any reference to such information, when
30 that information has been ordered to be expunged by the unprocessed
31 order of expungement. Additionally, the response shall not contain
32 any reference to the existence of the expungement order itself.
33 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the State
34 Bureau of Identification to create an additional record for any case or
35 incident for which there is an order of expungement if the records
36 subject to the order of expungement are not present in the State Bureau
37 of Identification's records or system¹ .
38 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)]³
39

40 ³1. a. The Division of State Police shall establish or continue to
41 maintain, and update, as appropriate, an online portal, in the form of
42 an Internet website, that, free of charge, allows a person who has
43 been granted an order of expungement to ascertain the status of the
44 electronic processing of that order by the State Bureau of
45 Identification.

46 b. (1) The Division of State Police shall annually submit to the
47 Governor and Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164

1 (C.52:14-19.1) a report summarizing the number of expungement
2 orders received year-to-date starting January 1 of the year being
3 reported by expungement type, the number of expungement orders
4 received each month by expungement type, the number of
5 expungement orders processed year-to-date, and relevant processing
6 timeframes.

7 (2) The report shall be based on the calendar year.

8 (3) The report shall be published on the official website of the
9 Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
10 Safety.³

11

12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

13

14

15

16

17 Requires State Police to establish online portal allowing persons
18 to obtain status of expungement orders.

CHAPTER 38

AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and expungements and supplementing chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.2C:52-15.1 Online portal to obtain expungement order status; report to Governor, Legislature.

1. a. The Division of State Police shall establish or continue to maintain, and update, as appropriate, an online portal, in the form of an Internet website, that, free of charge, allows a person who has been granted an order of expungement to ascertain the status of the electronic processing of that order by the State Bureau of Identification.

b. (1) The Division of State Police shall annually submit to the Governor and Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) a report summarizing the number of expungement orders received year-to-date starting January 1 of the year being reported by expungement type, the number of expungement orders received each month by expungement type, the number of expungement orders processed year-to-date, and relevant processing timeframes.

(2) The report shall be based on the calendar year.

(3) The report shall be published on the official website of the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 31, 2025.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3881

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits certain dissemination of criminal history background information until record is updated.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A3881 QUIJANO

2

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and amending P.L.1985, c.169.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, c.169 (C.53:1-20.6) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of
10 the Attorney General, shall, pursuant to the "Administrative
11 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules
12 and regulations authorizing the dissemination, by the State Bureau
13 of Identification, of criminal history record background information
14 requested by State, county and local government agencies,
15 including the Division of State Police, in noncriminal matters, or
16 requested by individuals, nongovernmental entities or other
17 governmental entities whose access to such criminal history record
18 background information is not prohibited by law. A fee not to
19 exceed \$30 shall be imposed for processing fingerprint
20 identification checks; a fee not to exceed \$18 shall be imposed for
21 processing criminal history name search identification checks.
22 These fees shall be in addition to any other fees required by law. In
23 addition to any fee specified herein, a nonrefundable fee, the
24 amount of which shall be determined by the Superintendent of State
25 Police, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall be collected
26 to cover the cost of securing and processing a federal criminal
27 records check for each applicant.

28 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
29 Division of State Police, and nongovernmental entities are
30 authorized to impose and collect the processing fee established
31 pursuant to subsection a. of this section from the person for whom
32 the criminal history record background check is being processed or
33 from the party requesting the criminal history record background
34 check. The Superintendent of State Police shall provide this
35 processing service without the collection of fees from the applicants
36 in processing background checks of prospective resource family
37 parents or members of their immediate families. In such cases, the
38 Department of Children and Families shall be responsible for
39 paying the fees imposed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
40 Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Superintendent of State
41 Police, with the approval of the Attorney General, from providing
42 this processing service without the collection of fees from the
43 applicant in other circumstances which in his sole discretion he
44 deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a wage or
45 salary for the time and services they provide to an organization or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances where the
2 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
3 General, determines to provide this processing service without the
4 collection of fees to the individual applicants, the superintendent
5 may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf of the
6 applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
7 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
8 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
9 for the processing fee to the Division of State Police.

10 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
11 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall
12 verify whether the person to whom the background information
13 pertains has been granted an order of expungement by the Superior
14 Court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. which has not yet been
15 processed by the State Bureau of Identification. In the case of an
16 unprocessed order of expungement, the State Bureau of
17 Identification shall update its records to reflect the expungement
18 prior to disseminating criminal history record background
19 information pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

20 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)

21
22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

23 24 25 STATEMENT

26
27 This bill prohibits the State Bureau of Identification in the
28 Division of State Police (SBI) from disseminating criminal history
29 record background information about a person with an unprocessed
30 order of expungement whose record needs to be updated to reflect
31 the expungement.

32 An order of expungement is issued by the Superior Court upon
33 successful application by an eligible person. Under current law, the
34 SBI is authorized to disseminate criminal history record background
35 information upon request, but the statute is silent with regard to
36 updating records to reflect expungement orders. This bill would
37 specify that prior to disseminating background information, the SBI
38 is required to: (1) determine whether the person to whom the
39 background information pertains has an unprocessed order of
40 expungement; and (2) update its records to reflect the expungement.

41 This bill is intended to ensure that when there is a backlog of
42 unprocessed expungement requests, the SBI does not provide
43 incorrect background information, which may preclude an
44 otherwise eligible person from employment, licensing, a volunteer
45 position, or any other purpose for which criminal history record
46 background information is sought.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3881

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits dissemination of certain criminal history background information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on May 20, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and amending P.L.1985, ¹**[c.169]** c.69¹.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, ¹**[c.169]** c.69¹ (C.53:1-20.6) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of
10 the Attorney General, shall, pursuant to the "Administrative
11 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules
12 and regulations authorizing the dissemination, by the State Bureau
13 of Identification, of criminal history record background information
14 requested by State, county and local government agencies,
15 including the Division of State Police, in noncriminal matters, or
16 requested by individuals, nongovernmental entities or other
17 governmental entities whose access to such criminal history record
18 background information is not prohibited by law. A fee not to
19 exceed \$30 shall be imposed for processing fingerprint
20 identification checks; a fee not to exceed \$18 shall be imposed for
21 processing criminal history name search identification checks.
22 These fees shall be in addition to any other fees required by law. In
23 addition to any fee specified herein, a nonrefundable fee, the
24 amount of which shall be determined by the Superintendent of State
25 Police, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall be collected
26 to cover the cost of securing and processing a federal criminal
27 records check for each applicant.

28 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
29 Division of State Police, and nongovernmental entities are
30 authorized to impose and collect the processing fee established
31 pursuant to subsection a. of this section from the person for whom
32 the criminal history record background check is being processed or
33 from the party requesting the criminal history record background
34 check. The Superintendent of State Police shall provide this
35 processing service without the collection of fees from the applicants
36 in processing background checks of prospective resource family
37 parents or members of their immediate families. In such cases, the
38 Department of Children and Families shall be responsible for
39 paying the fees imposed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
40 Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Superintendent of State
41 Police, with the approval of the Attorney General, from providing
42 this processing service without the collection of fees from the
43 applicant in other circumstances which in his sole discretion he
44 deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a wage or
45 salary for the time and services they provide to an organization or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted May 20, 2024.

1 who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances where the
2 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
3 General, determines to provide this processing service without the
4 collection of fees to the individual applicants, the superintendent
5 may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf of the
6 applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
7 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
8 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
9 for the processing fee to the Division of State Police.

10 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
11 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall
12 verify whether the person to whom the background information
13 pertains has been granted an order of expungement by the Superior
14 Court¹,¹ pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. ¹or subsection m. of
15 N.J.S.2C:35-14,¹ which has not yet been processed by the State
16 Bureau of Identification. In the case of an unprocessed order of
17 expungement, the State Bureau of Identification ¹[update its
18 records to reflect the expungement prior to disseminating criminal
19 history record background information pursuant to subsection a. of
20 this section] promptly respond to the request for criminal history
21 record background information pursuant to subsection a. of this
22 section, except that the response shall not contain any criminal
23 history record background information, nor any reference to such
24 information, when that information has been ordered to be
25 expunged by the unprocessed order of expungement. Additionally,
26 the response shall not contain any reference to the existence of the
27 expungement order itself. Nothing in this subsection shall be
28 construed to require the State Bureau of Identification to create an
29 additional record for any case or incident for which there is an order
30 of expungement if the records subject to the order of expungement
31 are not present in the State Bureau of Identification's records or
32 system¹ .

33 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)

34
35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3881

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Lopez and Bagolie

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits dissemination of certain criminal history background information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on October 21, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and amending P.L.1985, **‘[c.169] c.69¹**.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, **‘[c.169] c.69¹** (C.53:1-20.6) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
10 Attorney General, shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
11 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations
12 authorizing the dissemination, by the State Bureau of Identification, of
13 criminal history record background information requested by State,
14 county and local government agencies, including the Division of State
15 Police, in noncriminal matters, or requested by individuals,
16 nongovernmental entities or other governmental entities whose access
17 to such criminal history record background information is not
18 prohibited by law. A fee not to exceed \$30 shall be imposed for
19 processing fingerprint identification checks; a fee not to exceed \$18
20 shall be imposed for processing criminal history name search
21 identification checks. These fees shall be in addition to any other fees
22 required by law. In addition to any fee specified herein, a
23 nonrefundable fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the
24 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
25 General, shall be collected to cover the cost of securing and processing
26 a federal criminal records check for each applicant.

27 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
28 Division of State Police, and nongovernmental entities are authorized
29 to impose and collect the processing fee established pursuant to
30 subsection a. of this section from the person for whom the criminal
31 history record background check is being processed or from the party
32 requesting the criminal history record background check. The
33 Superintendent of State Police shall provide this processing service
34 without the collection of fees from the applicants in processing
35 background checks of prospective resource family parents or members
36 of their immediate families. In such cases, the Department of Children
37 and Families shall be responsible for paying the fees imposed pursuant
38 to subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit
39 the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
40 General, from providing this processing service without the collection
41 of fees from the applicant in other circumstances which in his sole
42 discretion he deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a
43 wage or salary for the time and services they provide to an
44 organization or who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **‘[thus]’** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted May 20, 2024.

²Senate SLP committee amendments adopted October 21, 2024.

1 where the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
2 Attorney General, determines to provide this processing service
3 without the collection of fees to the individual applicants, the
4 superintendent may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf
5 of the applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
6 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
7 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
8 for the processing fee to the Division of State Police.

9 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
10 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall verify
11 whether the person to whom the background information pertains has
12 been granted an order of expungement by ²[the Superior Court ¹,¹
13 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. ¹or subsection m. of N.J.S.2C:35-
14 14, ¹] law² which has not yet been processed by the State Bureau of
15 Identification. In the case of an unprocessed order of expungement, the
16 State Bureau of Identification ²shall² ¹[update its records to reflect the
17 expungement prior to disseminating criminal history record
18 background information pursuant to subsection a. of this section]
19 promptly respond to the request for criminal history record
20 background information pursuant to subsection a. of this section,
21 except that the response shall not contain any criminal history record
22 background information, nor any reference to such information, when
23 that information has been ordered to be expunged by the unprocessed
24 order of expungement. Additionally, the response shall not contain
25 any reference to the existence of the expungement order itself.
26 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the State
27 Bureau of Identification to create an additional record for any case or
28 incident for which there is an order of expungement if the records
29 subject to the order of expungement are not present in the State Bureau
30 of Identification's records or system¹ .

31 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)

32
33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3881

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

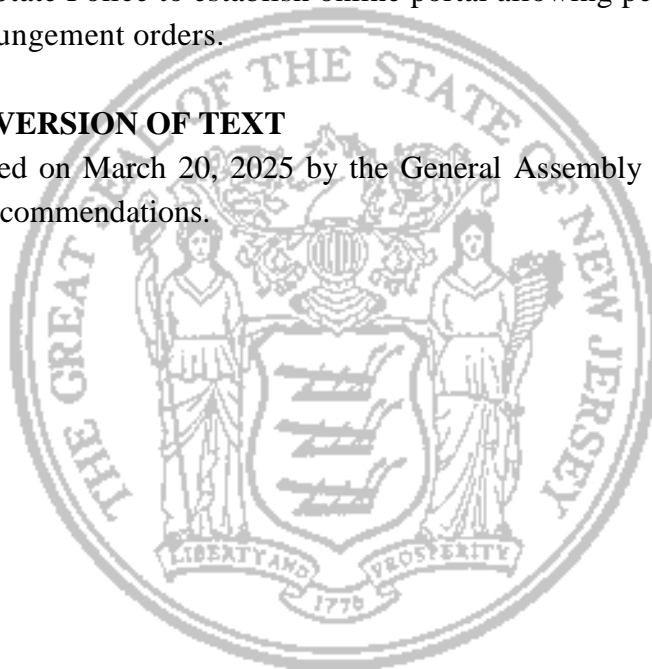
Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Lopez and Bagolie

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Police to establish online portal allowing persons to obtain status of expungement orders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on March 20, 2025 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and ³[amending P.L.1985, ¹[c.169] c.69¹]
3 supplementing chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
4 Statutes³.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8
9 ³[1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, ¹[c.169] c.69¹ (C.53:1-20.6) is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
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26 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
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28 a federal criminal records check for each applicant.

29 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
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39 and Families shall be responsible for paying the fees imposed pursuant
40 to subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit
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44 discretion he deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a
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recommendations March 20, 2025.

1 organization or who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances
2 where the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
3 Attorney General, determines to provide this processing service
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5 superintendent may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf
6 of the applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
7 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
8 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
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10 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
11 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall verify
12 whether the person to whom the background information pertains has
13 been granted an order of expungement by ²[the Superior Court ¹,¹
14 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. ¹or subsection m. of N.J.S.2C:35-
15 14,¹] law² which has not yet been processed by the State Bureau of
16 Identification. In the case of an unprocessed order of expungement, the
17 State Bureau of Identification ²shall² ¹[update its records to reflect the
18 expungement prior to disseminating criminal history record
19 background information pursuant to subsection a. of this section]
20 promptly respond to the request for criminal history record
21 background information pursuant to subsection a. of this section,
22 except that the response shall not contain any criminal history record
23 background information, nor any reference to such information, when
24 that information has been ordered to be expunged by the unprocessed
25 order of expungement. Additionally, the response shall not contain
26 any reference to the existence of the expungement order itself.
27 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the State
28 Bureau of Identification to create an additional record for any case or
29 incident for which there is an order of expungement if the records
30 subject to the order of expungement are not present in the State Bureau
31 of Identification's records or system¹ .
32 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)]³

33
34 ³1. a. The Division of State Police shall establish or continue to
35 maintain, and update, as appropriate, an online portal, in the form of
36 an Internet website, that, free of charge, allows a person who has
37 been granted an order of expungement to ascertain the status of the
38 electronic processing of that order by the State Bureau of
39 Identification.

40 b. (1) The Division of State Police shall annually submit to the
41 Governor and Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
42 (C.52:14-19.1) a report summarizing the number of expungement
43 orders received year-to-date starting January 1 of the year being
44 reported by expungement type, the number of expungement orders
45 received each month by expungement type, the number of
46 expungement orders processed year-to-date, and relevant processing
47 timeframes.

A3881 [3R] QUIJANO, PARK

4

1 (2) The report shall be based on the calendar year.

2 (3) The report shall be published on the official website of the
3 Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
4 Safety.³

5

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3881

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 20, 2024

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3881.

As amended and reported, this bill provides that when an order of expungement has been issued by the court but has not yet been processed, the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police (SBI) is required to promptly respond to a request for criminal history background information. The response may not contain any: (1) criminal history record background information; (2) reference to such information; or (3) reference to the existence of the expungement order itself. Further, as amended, the SBI would not be required to create a record in their system if the records for which there is an order are not present in the SBI system.

Under current law, an order of expungement is issued by the Superior Court upon successful application by an eligible person, and the SBI is authorized to disseminate criminal history record background information upon request. However, the statute is silent with regard to updating records to reflect expungement orders that have not yet been processed.

This bill specifies that, prior to disseminating background information, the SBI is required to determine whether the person to whom the background information pertains has an unprocessed order of expungement. As amended, the bill applies to expungement orders granted by the Superior Court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. or a recovery court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:35-14.

This bill ensures that when there is a backlog of unprocessed expungement requests, the SBI does not provide incorrect background information, which may preclude an otherwise eligible person from employment, licensing, a volunteer position, renting housing, or any other purpose for which criminal history record background information is sought.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that:

(1) in addition to applying to expungement orders issued by the Superior Court, the bill applies to expungement orders issued by a recovery court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:35-14;

(2) in the case of unprocessed expungement orders, the SBI is required to promptly respond to a request for criminal history record background information. The SBI is prohibited from disclosing in the response any criminal history background information, reference to such information, or reference to the existence of an unprocessed expungement order; and

(3) the New Jersey State Police are not required to create a new record in their system if the order of expungement is for a record that is not yet in the system.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3881

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 21, 2024

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3881 (1R).

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 3881 (1R) provides that when an order of expungement has been issued by the court but has not yet been processed, the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police (SBI) is required to promptly respond to a request for criminal history background information. The response may not contain any: (1) criminal history record background information; (2) reference to such information; or (3) reference to the existence of the expungement order itself. Further, as amended, the SBI would not be required to create a record in their system if the records for which there is an order are not present in the SBI system.

Under current law, an order of expungement is issued by the Superior Court upon successful application by an eligible person, and the SBI is authorized to disseminate criminal history record background information upon request. However, the statute is silent with regard to updating records to reflect expungement orders that have not yet been processed.

This bill specifies that, prior to disseminating background information, the SBI is required to determine whether the person to whom the background information pertains has an unprocessed order of expungement. As amended, the bill applies to expungement orders granted under current law.

This bill ensures that when there is a backlog of unprocessed expungement requests, the SBI does not provide incorrect background information, which may preclude an otherwise eligible person from employment, licensing, a volunteer position, renting housing, or any other purpose for which criminal history record background information is sought.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 3881 (1R), is identical to Senate Bill No. 2513, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to:

- 1) remove reference to expungement orders issued by the Superior Court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. or a recovery court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:35-14; and
- 2) clarify that the bill applies to all expungement orders issued under current law.

SENATE, No. 2513

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits certain dissemination of criminal history background information until record is updated.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/21/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and amending P.L.1985, c.169.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, c.169 (C.53:1-20.6) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of
10 the Attorney General, shall, pursuant to the "Administrative
11 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules
12 and regulations authorizing the dissemination, by the State Bureau
13 of Identification, of criminal history record background information
14 requested by State, county and local government agencies,
15 including the Division of State Police, in noncriminal matters, or
16 requested by individuals, nongovernmental entities or other
17 governmental entities whose access to such criminal history record
18 background information is not prohibited by law. A fee not to
19 exceed \$30 shall be imposed for processing fingerprint
20 identification checks; a fee not to exceed \$18 shall be imposed for
21 processing criminal history name search identification checks.
22 These fees shall be in addition to any other fees required by law. In
23 addition to any fee specified herein, a nonrefundable fee, the
24 amount of which shall be determined by the Superintendent of State
25 Police, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall be collected
26 to cover the cost of securing and processing a federal criminal
27 records check for each applicant.

28 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
29 Division of State Police, and nongovernmental entities are
30 authorized to impose and collect the processing fee established
31 pursuant to subsection a. of this section from the person for whom
32 the criminal history record background check is being processed or
33 from the party requesting the criminal history record background
34 check. The Superintendent of State Police shall provide this
35 processing service without the collection of fees from the applicants
36 in processing background checks of prospective resource family
37 parents or members of their immediate families. In such cases, the
38 Department of Children and Families shall be responsible for
39 paying the fees imposed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
40 Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Superintendent of State
41 Police, with the approval of the Attorney General, from providing
42 this processing service without the collection of fees from the
43 applicant in other circumstances which in his sole discretion he
44 deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a wage or
45 salary for the time and services they provide to an organization or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances where the
2 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
3 General, determines to provide this processing service without the
4 collection of fees to the individual applicants, the superintendent
5 may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf of the
6 applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
7 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
8 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
9 for the processing fee to the Division of State Police.

10 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
11 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall
12 verify whether the person to whom the background information
13 pertains has been granted an order of expungement by the Superior
14 Court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. which has not yet been
15 processed by the State Bureau of Identification. In the case of an
16 unprocessed order of expungement, the State Bureau of
17 Identification shall update its records to reflect the expungement
18 prior to disseminating criminal history record background
19 information pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

20 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)

21

22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

23

24

25

STATEMENT

26

27 This bill prohibits the State Bureau of Identification in the
28 Division of State Police (SBI) from disseminating criminal history
29 record background information about a person with an unprocessed
30 order of expungement whose record needs to be updated to reflect
31 the expungement.

32 An order of expungement is issued by the Superior Court upon
33 successful application by an eligible person. Under current law, the
34 SBI is authorized to disseminate criminal history record background
35 information upon request, but the statute is silent with regard to
36 updating records to reflect expungement orders. This bill would
37 specify that prior to disseminating background information, the SBI
38 is required to: (1) determine whether the person to whom the
39 background information pertains has an unprocessed order of
40 expungement; and (2) update its records to reflect the expungement.

41 This bill is intended to ensure that when there is a backlog of
42 unprocessed expungement requests, the SBI does not provide
43 incorrect background information, which may preclude an
44 otherwise eligible person from employment, licensing, a volunteer
45 position, or any other purpose for which criminal history record
46 background information is sought.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2513

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits dissemination of certain criminal history background information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on October 21, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/21/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal history background information and
2 expungements and amending P.L.1985, c.169.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1985, **1**~~["c.169"]~~ c.69¹ (C.53:1-20.6) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 2. a. The Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the
10 Attorney General, shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
11 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations
12 authorizing the dissemination, by the State Bureau of Identification, of
13 criminal history record background information requested by State,
14 county and local government agencies, including the Division of State
15 Police, in noncriminal matters, or requested by individuals,
16 nongovernmental entities or other governmental entities whose access
17 to such criminal history record background information is not
18 prohibited by law. A fee not to exceed \$30 shall be imposed for
19 processing fingerprint identification checks; a fee not to exceed \$18
20 shall be imposed for processing criminal history name search
21 identification checks. These fees shall be in addition to any other fees
22 required by law. In addition to any fee specified herein, a
23 nonrefundable fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the
24 Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
25 General, shall be collected to cover the cost of securing and processing
26 a federal criminal records check for each applicant.

27 b. State, county and local government agencies, including the
28 Division of State Police, and nongovernmental entities are authorized
29 to impose and collect the processing fee established pursuant to
30 subsection a. of this section from the person for whom the criminal
31 history record background check is being processed or from the party
32 requesting the criminal history record background check. The
33 Superintendent of State Police shall provide this processing service
34 without the collection of fees from the applicants in processing
35 background checks of prospective resource family parents or members
36 of their immediate families. In such cases, the Department of Children
37 and Families shall be responsible for paying the fees imposed pursuant
38 to subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit
39 the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the Attorney
40 General, from providing this processing service without the collection
41 of fees from the applicant in other circumstances which in his sole
42 discretion he deems appropriate, if the applicants would not receive a
43 wage or salary for the time and services they provide to an
44 organization or who are considered volunteers. In those circumstances
45 where the Superintendent of State Police, with the approval of the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLP committee amendments adopted October 21, 2024.

1 Attorney General, determines to provide this processing service
2 without the collection of fees to the individual applicants, the
3 superintendent may assess the fees for providing this service on behalf
4 of the applicants to any department of State, county or municipal
5 government which is responsible for operating or overseeing that
6 volunteer program. The agencies shall transfer all moneys collected
7 for the processing fee to the Division of State Police.

8 c. Upon receipt of a request for criminal history record
9 background information, the State Bureau of Identification shall verify
10 whether the person to whom the background information pertains has
11 been granted an order of expungement by ¹the Superior Court
12 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq.] law¹ which has not yet been
13 processed by the State Bureau of Identification. In the case of an
14 unprocessed order of expungement, the State Bureau of Identification
15 shall ¹update its records to reflect the expungement prior to
16 disseminating criminal history record background information
17 pursuant to subsection a. of this section] promptly respond to the
18 request for criminal history record background information pursuant to
19 subsection a. of this section, except that the response shall not contain
20 any criminal history record background information, nor any reference
21 to such information, when that information has been ordered to be
22 expunged by the unprocessed order of expungement. Additionally, the
23 response shall not contain any reference to the existence of the
24 expungement order itself. Nothing in this subsection shall be
25 construed to require the State Bureau of Identification to create an
26 additional record for any case or incident for which there is an order of
27 expungement if the records subject to the order of expungement are
28 not present in the State Bureau of Identification's records or system¹.
29 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.200)

30

31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2513

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 21, 2024

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2513.

As amended and reported, this bill provides that when an order of expungement has been issued by the court but has not yet been processed, the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police (SBI) is required to promptly respond to a request for criminal history background information. The response may not contain any: (1) criminal history record background information; (2) reference to such information; or (3) reference to the existence of the expungement order itself. Further, as amended, the SBI would not be required to create a record in their system if the records for which there is an order are not present in the SBI system.

Under current law, an order of expungement is issued by the Superior Court upon successful application by an eligible person, and the SBI is authorized to disseminate criminal history record background information upon request. However, the statute is silent with regard to updating records to reflect expungement orders that have not yet been processed.

This bill specifies that, prior to disseminating background information, the SBI is required to determine whether the person to whom the background information pertains has an unprocessed order of expungement. As amended, the bill applies to expungement orders granted by the Superior Court under current law.

This bill ensures that when there is a backlog of unprocessed expungement requests, the SBI does not provide incorrect background information, which may preclude an otherwise eligible person from employment, licensing, a volunteer position, renting housing, or any other purpose for which criminal history record background information is sought.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 2513 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3881 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that:

(1) in the case of unprocessed expungement orders, the SBI is required to promptly respond to a request for criminal history record background information. The SBI is prohibited from disclosing in the response any criminal history background information, reference to such information, or reference to the existence of an unprocessed expungement order;

(2) the New Jersey State Police are not required to create a new record in their system if the order of expungement is for a record that is not yet in the system;

(3) remove reference to expungement orders issued by the Superior Court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq.; and

(4) clarify that the bill applies to all expungement orders issued under current law.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3881
(Second Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 3881 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would require, for every requested State Police criminal history information background check, the State Bureau of Identification ("SBI") within the Division of the New Jersey State Police to verify whether the subject of a criminal history background check has been granted a judicial order of expungement that is awaiting processing at the time of the background check request. If such an unprocessed order is found to exist for an individual, the SBI would then be required to respond to the background check for that individual while omitting any records subject to the expungement order or any reference to either the record or the expungement order itself.

New Jersey's laws have been significantly revised in recent years to give hundreds of thousands of residents the opportunity to apply for an expungement. These reforms, which have exponentially expanded the eligibility, scope and volume of expungements, have opened up much-needed pathways to enable many more New Jerseyans to re-enter the community without having to face the collateral consequences that often operated to deprive fully rehabilitated individuals of opportunities for employment, housing, professional licensure, education, and other benefits that would otherwise have been available but for their criminal history.

The State Police were hard-pressed to keep up with the substantial increase in expungement orders granted by the courts, leading to a backlog of nearly 50,000 unprocessed orders and eventually a class action lawsuit initiated by the Office of the Public Defender. The lawsuit, filed in October 2023, sought to

compel the State Police to process expungement orders in a more timely fashion.

This bill was designed to address this problem legislatively, by providing an interim solution that would remove criminal history information from the record as ordered by the court during the time the court's expungement order was awaiting processing. Unfortunately, however, in proposing an interim solution as a work-around to the processing backlog, the legislation would have the unintended effect of substantially delaying the State Police's primary task of processing expungement orders issued by the court. To implement this bill, the State Police would have to address each criminal history information background check request manually, first screening each of the one million-plus background check requests received each year and, for the ones identified as having unprocessed expungement orders, manually removing from each record the information to be expunged before responding to the request. The disruption to the processing of expungement orders and the re-allocation of resources necessary to perform the tasks required by this bill would frustrate the very ends the bill seeks to achieve.

Since the introduction of the bill last year, and as a result of the diligent, concerted and coordinated efforts of the parties to the litigation, the State Police, the Public Defender, and the Attorney General, significant reforms have been implemented to the system that have dramatically reduced the backlog and processing times for the bulk of expungement orders received. Last week, the parties announced and released agreed-upon terms to resolve and settle the pending litigation. The Term Sheet Reflecting Settlement ("Term Sheet") delineates the proposed timeframes under which the State Police will resolve the backlog of expungement orders and process future expungement orders. The Term Sheet also requires that the State Police launch and maintain an online portal where expungement applicants can review the status of the

processing of their expungement orders. Expungement applicants can receive email updates for any alerts relating to status changes.

I applaud the proponents of this bill and their admirable desire to help petitioners for expungements move on with their lives without fear of a background check revealing a record that a court otherwise ordered to be expunged. I especially want to extend my gratitude to sponsor Assemblywoman Quijano, whose focus and advocacy on this issue underlines her unwavering commitment to fairness and better outcomes for all New Jerseyans. As a result of her efforts, we are all in a much better place.

However, the goals sought to be advanced through this legislation have largely been accomplished, obviating the need for the bill as currently formulated. Recognizing this, I am recommending revisions that would replace the requirements in the bill with language that would codify portions of the agreement. Specifically, my revisions would enshrine in statute the requirement that the State Police maintain an online portal. I am also recommending annual reporting by the State Police to ensure that policymakers and the public have a full understanding of the number of applications that been received each year and the time it took to process them. My recommended changes acknowledge the significant progress that has already been made in processing expungements and ensure continued accountability and compliance beyond the terms of the settlement agreement.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3881 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Title, Line 2: Delete "amending P.L.1985, c.69" and insert "supplementing chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 7: Delete "Section 2 of P.L.1985, c.69 (C.53:1-20.6) is" and insert "a. The Division of State Police shall establish or continue to maintain, and update, as appropriate, an online portal, in the form of

an Internet website, that, free of charge, allows a person who has been granted an order of expungement to ascertain the status of the electronic processing of that order by the State Bureau of Identification.

b. (1) The Division of State Police shall annually submit to the Governor and Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) a report summarizing the number of expungement orders received year-to-date starting January 1 of the year being reported by expungement type, the number of expungement orders received each month by expungement type, the number of expungement orders processed year-to-date, and relevant processing timeframes.

(2) The report shall be based on the calendar year.

(3) The report shall be published on the official website of the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety."

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 8-44:

Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 1-31:

Delete in their entirety

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

03/17/2025

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

S-2423/ACS for A-3678 (Pou, McKnight/Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Moen) - Renames Juvenile Justice Commission as Youth Justice Commission

S-3466/A-4627 (McKeon, Greenstein/Collazos-Gill, DiMaio) - Extends expiration date of special appraisal process for Green Acres and farmland preservation program; provides aid for watershed lands

AJR-159/SJR-109 (Sumter, Verrelli, Wimberly/McKnight, Mukherji) - Designates November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bills:

ACS for A-3540/SS for S-2544 (Conaway, Greenwald, Park/Moriarty, Corrado) –CONDITIONAL - Establishes criminal penalties for production or dissemination of deceptive audio or visual media, commonly known as “deepfakes”

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-3881/S-2513 (Quijano, Park/Stack, McKnight) – CONDITIONAL - Prohibits dissemination of certain criminal history background information

[Copy of Statement](#)

Governor Murphy issued an absolute veto on the following bill:

A-3667/S-1138 (Freiman, Park/McKeon) - ABSOLUTE - Permits dental service corporations to be subsidiaries of nonprofit parent companies

[Copy of Statement](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Bill to Make Expungement Process in New Jersey More Accessible and Transparent

03/31/2025

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed [A3881/SS2513](#), which requires the New Jersey State Police to establish and maintain an online portal allowing petitioners to obtain the status of their expungement orders.

“Individuals seeking a second chance through expungement deserve a clear and transparent process,” **said Governor Murphy**. “This bill codifies our Administration’s commitment to ensuring justice is accessible and efficient for all. With a dedicated online tracking system, petitioners can now stay informed about the status of their expungement.”

[Last year](#), Governor Murphy, Attorney General Platkin, New Jersey State Police Superintendent Colonel Callahan, and the Division of Criminal Justice announced a 117% increase in processed final expungement orders from 2022 to 2023 and a nearly 70% reduction in the number of pending applications from its peak. Earlier this year, the Office of the Attorney General, New Jersey State Police, and the Office of the Public Defender agreed to litigation settlement terms that included much of what is required in today’s bill, in addition to two commitments of processing all expungement orders received before February 1, 2025 by June 1, 2025 and ensuring most expungement order reviews are completed between 90 to 120 days of receipt.

“For someone waiting for an order clearing their criminal record to be processed, transparency is critical,” **said Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin**. “This bill codifies a requirement to maintain the public portal recently set up by the New Jersey State Police and to issue periodic reports on the status of the processing queue, which will help ensure that petitioners are informed of where things stand in the process.”

“The New Jersey State Police is committed to transparency and ensuring that individuals with expungement orders have a clear, accessible way to verify their status,” **said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police**. “The creation of an online portal reflects our dedication to maintaining the integrity of the expungement process while offering an efficient and reliable resource for those seeking a fresh start.”

“The Office of the Public Defender remains steadfast in its commitment to helping individuals overcome the barriers of their past records,” **said Public Defender Jennifer Sellitti**. “We support any measure that enables people to move beyond their mistakes and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.”

Today’s bill will also require the New Jersey State Police to submit – and make available to the public online – an annual report to the Governor and Legislature providing a status update on expungement processing, including the expungement type, the number of expungement orders received each month by expungement type, the number of expungement orders processed year-to-date, and relevant information on processing timeframe.

The primary sponsors of this bill, which passed unanimously in both chambers, are Senator Brian Stack and Assemblywoman Annette Quijano. Other prime sponsors include Senator Angela McKnight and Assemblywoman

Ellen Park.

"Today, we make a tremendous stride forward in ensuring fairness and dignity for individuals who have earned a second chance. By signing this bill into law, we are protecting the privacy of individuals who have had their criminal records expunged so that outdated and incorrect information does not unfairly stand in the way of getting a job, a home, and a fresh start," **said Senator Stack**. "This law reaffirms our commitment to a more just justice system where rehabilitation is genuinely valued. People can move forward without the stigma of past mistakes. I thank Governor Murphy for his partnership on this vital issue."

"As we continue to address the backlog of expungement records, we must do right by those still waiting for their requests to be processed and prevent outdated information from hindering their success," **said Senator McKnight**. "This law, and the recent agreement to improve expungement processing, will ensure that someone's past does not define their present, giving individuals the chance to obtain employment, pursue higher education, and build a fulfilling life. Thank you Governor Murphy for working to create a justice system in New Jersey that recognizes the power and importance of new beginnings for those who have earned it."

"The signing of A3881 underscores the importance of protecting privacy and ensuring fairness in our justice system," **said Assemblywoman Quijano**. "Expungements are intended to provide people with a second chance, leading to the ability to obtain access to housing, employment, educational opportunities and more. Now, thanks to this law, individuals whose criminal histories are updated will be able to see the status of their expungement order."

"This bill will ensure that people whose criminal records have been expunged can access the status of their expungement order, allowing them to make smart decisions when it comes to applying for jobs and housing," **said Assemblywoman Park**. "It will also help them save time by making sure that don't waste energy or resources applying for opportunities without an updated expunged criminal history."

"The New Jersey State Bar Association applauds the efforts of the Legislature, specifically Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, and Gov. Phil Murphy to improve the processing of expungement orders," **said William H. Mergner, Jr., President, New Jersey State Bar**. "Timely expungements are crucial for individuals who have made earnest efforts to reintegrate into society when applying for jobs, housing and other opportunities that require criminal background histories. This new law furthers the goal of rehabilitation and reducing recidivism. Creating a transparent, accessible online portal will allow these individuals to track their expungement status and move forward without worry that their background will negatively impact their future."