

EXPUNGEMENT AMENDMENTS

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler

House Sponsor: Paul Ray

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to expungement.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides for a certificate of eligibility if certain conditions are met after a case is dismissed without prejudice or condition;
- ▶ addresses when the court shall issue an order of expungement;
- ▶ provides for applying for a certificate of eligibility after a petition for expungement is denied; and
- ▶ makes technical amendments.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

77-40-104, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 136

77-40-107, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 356

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section 77-40-104 is amended to read:

29 **77-40-104. Eligibility for expungement of records of arrest, investigation, and**
30 **detention -- Requirements.**

31 (1) A person who ~~[has been]~~ is arrested or formally charged with an offense may apply
32 to the bureau for a certificate of eligibility to expunge ~~[all]~~ the records of arrest, investigation,
33 and detention ~~[which]~~ that may have been made in the case, subject to the following
34 conditions:

35 (a) at least 30 days have passed since the day of the arrest for which a certificate of
36 eligibility is sought;

37 (b) there are no criminal proceedings pending against the petitioner; and

38 (c) one of the following ~~[occurred]~~ occurs:

39 (i) charges ~~[were]~~ are screened by the investigating law enforcement agency and the
40 prosecutor ~~[has made]~~ makes a final determination that no charges will be filed in the case;

41 (ii) the entire case ~~[was]~~ is dismissed with prejudice;

42 (iii) the entire case is dismissed without prejudice or without condition and:

43 (A) the prosecutor consents in writing to the issuance of a certificate of eligibility; or

44 (B) at least 180 days have passed since the day on which the case is dismissed;

45 ~~[(iii)]~~ (iv) the person ~~[was]~~ is acquitted at trial on all of the charges contained in the
46 case; or

47 ~~[(iv)]~~ (v) the statute of limitations ~~[has expired]~~ expires on all of the charges contained
48 in the case.

49 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a), the bureau shall issue a certificate of eligibility
50 on an expedited basis to a petitioner seeking expungement under Subsection ~~[(1)(c)(iii) shall be~~
51 ~~issued a certificate of eligibility on an expedited basis]~~ (1)(c)(iv).

52 Section 2. Section 77-40-107 is amended to read:

53 **77-40-107. Petition for expungement -- Prosecutorial responsibility -- Hearing --**
54 **Standard of proof -- Exception.**

55 (1) The petitioner shall file a petition for expungement and the certificate of eligibility
56 in the court specified in Section 77-40-103 and deliver a copy of the petition and certificate to
57 the prosecuting agency. If the certificate is filed electronically, the petitioner or the petitioner's
58 attorney shall keep the original certificate until the proceedings are concluded. If the original

59 certificate is filed with the petition, the clerk of the court shall scan it and return it to the
60 petitioner or the petitioner's attorney, who shall keep it until the proceedings are concluded.

61 (2) (a) Upon receipt of a petition for expungement of a conviction, the prosecuting
62 attorney shall provide notice of the expungement request by first-class mail to the victim at the
63 most recent address of record on file.

64 (b) The notice shall:

65 (i) include a copy of the petition, certificate of eligibility, statutes, and rules applicable
66 to the petition[;];

67 (ii) state that the victim has a right to object to the expungement[;]; and

68 (iii) provide instructions for registering an objection with the court.

69 (3) The prosecuting attorney and the victim, if applicable, may respond to the petition
70 by filing a recommendation or objection with the court within 35 days after receipt of the
71 petition.

72 (4) (a) The court may request a written response to the petition from the Division of
73 Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections.

74 (b) If requested, the response prepared by the Division of Adult Probation and Parole
75 shall include:

76 (i) the reasons probation was terminated; and

77 (ii) certification that the petitioner has completed all requirements of sentencing and
78 probation or parole.

79 (c) [A] The Division of Adult Probation and Parole shall provide a copy of the
80 response [~~shall be provided~~] to the petitioner and the prosecuting attorney.

81 (5) The petitioner may respond in writing to any objections filed by the prosecutor or
82 the victim and the response prepared by the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within 14
83 days after receipt.

84 (6) (a) If the court receives an objection concerning the petition from any party, the
85 court shall set a date for a hearing and notify the petitioner and the prosecuting attorney of the
86 date set for the hearing. The prosecuting attorney shall notify the victim of the date set for the
87 hearing.

88 (b) The petitioner, the prosecuting attorney, the victim, and any other person who has
89 relevant information about the petitioner may testify at the hearing.

90 (c) The court shall review the petition, the certificate of eligibility, and any written
91 responses submitted regarding the petition.

92 (7) If no objection is received within 60 days from the date the petition for
93 expungement ~~[was]~~ is filed with the court, the expungement may be granted without a hearing.

94 (8) The court shall issue an order of expungement if ~~[it]~~ the court finds by clear and
95 convincing evidence that:

96 (a) the petition and certificate of eligibility are sufficient;

97 (b) the statutory requirements have been met;

98 (c) if the petitioner seeks expungement after a case is dismissed without prejudice or
99 without condition, the prosecutor has not filed and does not intend to refile related charges;

100 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) if the petitioner seeks expungement of drug possession offenses allowed under
101 Subsection 77-40-105(6), the petitioner is not illegally using controlled substances and is
102 successfully managing any substance addiction; and

103 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) it is not contrary to the interests of the public to grant the expungement.

104 (9) If the court denies a petition described in Subsection (8)(c) because the prosecutor
105 intends to refile charges, the person seeking expungement may again apply for a certificate of
106 eligibility if charges are not refiled within 180 days of the day on which the court denies the
107 petition.

108 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) A court may not expunge a conviction of an offense for which a certificate of
109 eligibility may not be or should not have been issued under Section 77-40-104 or 77-40-105.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel