

2026 -- S 2983

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, LaMountain, Bissailon, McKenney, Euer, DiMario,
Mack, and Vargas

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12-1.3-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-1.3 entitled
2 "Expungement of Criminal Records" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **12-1.3-2. Motion for expungement.**

4 (a) Any person who is a first offender may file a motion for the expungement of all records
5 and records of conviction for a felony or misdemeanor by filing a motion in the court in which the
6 conviction took place; provided, that no person who has been convicted of a crime of violence shall
7 have his or her records and records of conviction expunged; and provided, that all outstanding
8 court-imposed or court-related fees, fines, costs, assessments, charges, and/or any other monetary
9 obligations have been paid, unless such amounts are reduced or waived by order of the court.

10 (b) Notwithstanding § 12-1.3-1(3) ("first offender"), any person who has been convicted
11 of more than one misdemeanor, but fewer than six (6) misdemeanors, and has not been convicted
12 of a felony may file a motion for the expungement of any or all of those misdemeanors by filing a
13 motion in the court in which the convictions took place; provided that convictions for offenses
14 under chapter 29 of title 12, § 31-27-2 or § 31-27-2.1 are not eligible for and may not be expunged
15 under this subsection.

16 (c) Subject to subsection (a), a person may file a motion for the expungement of records
17 relating to a misdemeanor conviction after five (5) years from the date of the ~~completion~~ imposition
18 of his or her sentence.

19 (d) Subject to subsection (a), a person may file a motion for the expungement of records

1 relating to a felony conviction after ten (10) years from the date of the ~~completion~~ imposition of
2 his or her sentence, or if the sentence is greater than ten (10) years, then the person may file for
3 expungement upon the successful completion of their sentence.

4 (e) Subject to § 12-19-19(c), and without regard to subsections (a) through (c) of this
5 section, a person may file a motion for the expungement of records relating to a deferred sentence
6 upon its completion, after which the court will hold a hearing on the motion.

7 (f) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, a person may file a motion for the expungement
8 of records relating to misdemeanor convictions after ten (10) years from the date of the completion
9 of their last sentence.

10 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) through (f) of this section, a person
11 may file a motion for the expungement of records related to an offense that has been decriminalized
12 subsequent to the date of their conviction, after which the court will hold a hearing on the motion
13 in the court in which the original conviction took place.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would permit the expungement of records 5 years after the imposition of sentence
2 for misdemeanors and 10 years after the imposition of sentence for felonies, and if the sentence is
3 greater than 10 years, then, upon successful completion of the sentence.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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