116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2410

To provide for the sealing or expungement of records relating to Federal nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 30, 2019

Mr. Cummings (for himself, Mr. Nadler, and Ms. Bass) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the sealing or expungement of records relating to Federal nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Record Expungement
- 5 Designed to Enhance Employment Act of 2019" or the
- 6 "REDEEM Act".

1 SEC. 2. SEALING OF CRIMINAL RECORDS.

- 2 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the definition of
- 3 the term "crime of violence" recommended by the United
- 4 States Sentencing Commission in the report entitled "Re-
- 5 port to the Congress: Career Offender Sentencing En-
- 6 hancements", published in August 2016, is clearer and
- 7 more specific than the definitions currently used in title
- 8 18, United States Code, and should be used to determine
- 9 the type of offenses eligible for sealing under the amend-
- 10 ments made by this section.
- 11 (b) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 229 of title 18, United
- 12 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
- 13 lowing:

14 "Subchapter E—Sealing of Criminal Records

15 "§ 3641. Definitions; eligible individuals

- 16 "(a) Definitions.—In this subchapter—
- 17 "(1) the term 'covered nonviolent offense'
- means a Federal criminal offense that is not—
- 19 "(A) a crime of violence; or
- 20 "(B) a sex offense, as defined in section
- 21 111 of the Sex Offender Registration and Noti-
- 22 fication Act (34 U.S.C. 20911);

[&]quot;Sec.

[&]quot;3641. Definitions; eligible individuals.

[&]quot;3642. Automatic sealing of records of nonviolent drug offenses.

[&]quot;3643. Sealing petition.

[&]quot;3644. Effect of sealing order.

1	"(2) the term 'crime of violence' means any of-
2	fense under Federal or State law, punishable by im-
3	prisonment for a term exceeding 1 year, that—
4	"(A) has as an element the use, attempted
5	use, or threatened use of physical force against
6	the person of another; or
7	"(B) is—
8	"(i) murder;
9	"(ii) voluntary manslaughter;
10	"(iii) kidnapping;
11	"(iv) aggravated assault;
12	"(v) a forcible sex offense;
13	"(vi) robbery;
14	"(vii) arson;
15	"(viii) extortion; or
16	"(ix) the use or unlawful possession
17	of—
18	"(I) a firearm, as defined in sec-
19	tion 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue
20	Code of 1986; or
21	"(II) explosive materials, as de-
22	fined in section 841(c);
23	"(3) the term 'eligible individual' means an in-
24	dividual who—

1	"(A) has been arrested for or convicted of
2	a covered nonviolent offense;
3	"(B) in the case of a conviction described
4	in subparagraph (A), has fulfilled each require-
5	ment of the sentence for the covered nonviolent
6	offense, including—
7	"(i) completing each term of imprison-
8	ment, probation, or supervised release; and
9	"(ii) satisfying each condition of im-
10	prisonment, probation, or supervised re-
11	lease;
12	"(C) subject to subsection (b), has not
13	been convicted of more than 2 felonies that are
14	covered nonviolent offenses, including any such
15	convictions that have been sealed; and
16	"(D) has not been convicted of any felony
17	that is not a covered nonviolent offense;
18	"(4) the term 'petitioner' means an individual
19	who files a sealing petition;
20	"(5) the term 'protected information', with re-
21	spect to a covered nonviolent offense, means any ref-
22	erence to—
23	"(A) an arrest, conviction, or sentence of
24	an individual for the offense;

1	"(B) the institution of criminal pro-
2	ceedings against an individual for the offense;
3	or
4	"(C) the result of criminal proceedings de-
5	scribed in subparagraph (B);
6	"(6) the term 'seal'—
7	"(A) means—
8	"(i) to close a record from public
9	viewing so that the record cannot be exam-
10	ined except by court order; and
11	"(ii) to physically seal the record shut
12	and label the record 'SEALED' or, in the
13	case of an electronic record, the sub-
14	stantive equivalent; and
15	"(B) has the effect described in section
16	3644, including—
17	"(i) the right to treat the offense to
18	which a sealed record relates, and any ar-
19	rest, criminal proceeding, conviction, or
20	sentence relating to the offense, as if it
21	never occurred; and
22	"(ii) protection from civil and criminal
23	perjury, false swearing, and false state-
24	ment laws with respect to a sealed record:

1	"(7) the term 'sealing hearing' means a hearing
2	held under section 3643(b)(2); and
3	"(8) the term 'sealing petition' means a petition
4	for a sealing order filed under section 3643(a).
5	"(b) Eligible Individuals.—
6	"(1) Multiple convictions deemed to be
7	ONE CONVICTION.—For purposes of subsection
8	(a)(2)(C)—
9	"(A) multiple convictions shall be deemed
10	to be 1 conviction if the convictions result from
11	or relate to—
12	"(i) the same act; or
13	"(ii) acts committed at the same time;
14	and
15	"(B) subject to paragraph (2), multiple
16	convictions, not to exceed 3, that do not result
17	from or relate to the same act or acts com-
18	mitted at the same time shall be deemed to be
19	1 conviction if the convictions—
20	"(i) result from or relate to—
21	"(I) the same—
22	"(aa) indictment, informa-
23	tion, or complaint;
24	"(bb) plea of guilty; or
25	"(cc) official proceeding; or

1	"(II) related criminal acts that
2	were committed within a 3-month pe-
3	riod; or
4	"(ii) are determined to be directly re-
5	lated to addiction or a substance use dis-
6	order.
7	"(2) Discretion of Court.—
8	"(A) In general.—A court reviewing a
9	sealing petition may determine that it is not in
10	the public interest to deem multiple convictions
11	described in paragraph (1)(B) to be 1 convic-
12	tion.
13	"(B) Reasoning.—If a court makes a de-
14	termination under subparagraph (A), the court
15	shall make available to the public the reasoning
16	for the determination.
17	"(C) Reporting.—Not later than 2 years
18	after the date of enactment of this subchapter,
19	and each year thereafter, each district court of
20	the United States shall submit to the appro-
21	priate committees of Congress a report that de-
22	scribes the exercise of discretion by the court
23	under subparagraph (B), with all relevant data
24	disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and
25	the nature of the offense.

1	"§ 3642. Automatic sealing of records of nonviolent
2	drug offenses
3	"(a) Definition.—In this section, the term 'con-
4	victed of a nonviolent drug offense', with respect to an
5	individual—
6	"(1) means the individual is convicted of a cov-
7	ered nonviolent offense that is an offense under the
8	Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.),
9	the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act
10	(21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), or chapter 705 of title 46;
11	and
12	"(2) does not include a conviction with respect
13	to which the court applied a sentencing enhancement
14	under section 2D1.1(b)(2) of the Federal sentencing
15	guidelines (relating to the use of violence or the
16	threat or direction to use violence).
17	"(b) AUTOMATIC SEALING.—Five years after the
18	date on which an eligible individual who is convicted of
19	a nonviolent drug offense completes every term of impris-
20	onment, probation, or supervised release ordered by the
21	court with respect to the offense, the court shall order the
22	sealing of each record or portion thereof that relates to
23	the offense if the individual—
24	"(1) has not been convicted of a crime or adju-
25	dicated delinquent for an act of juvenile delinquency
26	since the date of the conviction; and

1	"(2) is not engaged in active criminal court pro-
2	ceedings or juvenile delinquency proceedings.
3	"(c) AUTOMATIC NATURE OF SEALING.—The order
4	of sealing under subsection (b) shall require no action by
5	the individual whose records are to be sealed.
6	"(d) Notice of Automatic Sealing.—A court that
7	orders the sealing of a record of an individual under sub-
8	section (b) shall, in writing, inform the individual of the
9	sealing and the benefits of sealing the record, including
10	protection from civil and criminal perjury, false swearing,
11	and false statement laws with respect to the record.
12	"§ 3643. Sealing petition
13	"(a) Right To File Sealing Petition.—
14	"(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date de-
15	scribed in paragraph (2), an eligible individual may
16	file a petition for a sealing order with respect to a
17	covered nonviolent offense in a district court of the
18	United States.
19	"(2) Dates.—The date described in this para-
20	graph is—
21	"(A) for an eligible individual who is con-
22	victed of a covered nonviolent offense and sen-
23	tenced to a term of imprisonment, probation, or
24	supervised release, the date that is 1 year after
25	the date on which the eligible individual has

1	completed every such term of imprisonment,
2	probation, or supervised release; and
3	"(B) for an eligible individual not de-
4	scribed in subparagraph (A), the date on which
5	the case relating to the covered nonviolent of-
6	fense is disposed of.
7	"(3) Notice of opportunity to file peti-
8	TION.—
9	"(A) CONVICTED INDIVIDUALS.—
10	"(i) In general.—If an individual is
11	convicted of a covered nonviolent offense
12	and will potentially be eligible to file a
13	sealing petition with respect to the offense
14	upon fulfilling each requirement of the sen-
15	tence for the offense as described in sec-
16	tion 3641(a)(2)(B), the court in which the
17	individual is convicted shall, in writing, in-
18	form the individual, on each date described
19	in clause (ii), of—
20	"(I) that potential eligibility;
21	"(II) the necessary procedures
22	for filing the sealing petition; and
23	"(III) the benefits of sealing a
24	record, including protection from civil
25	and criminal perjury, false swearing,

1	and false statement laws with respect
2	to the record.
3	"(ii) Dates.—The dates described in
4	this clause are—
5	"(I) the date on which the indi-
6	vidual is convicted; and
7	"(II) the date on which the indi-
8	vidual has completed every term of
9	imprisonment, probation, or super-
10	vised release relating to the offense.
11	"(B) Individuals not convicted.—
12	"(i) Arrest only.—If an individual
13	is arrested for a covered nonviolent of-
14	fense, criminal proceedings are not insti-
15	tuted against the individual for the offense,
16	and the individual is potentially eligible to
17	file a sealing petition with respect to the
18	offense, on the date on which the case re-
19	lating to the offense is disposed of, the ar-
20	resting authority shall, in writing, inform
21	the individual of—
22	"(I) that potential eligibility;
23	"(II) the necessary procedures
24	for filing the sealing petition; and

1	"(III) the benefits of sealing a
2	record, including protection from civil
3	and criminal perjury, false swearing,
4	and false statement laws with respect
5	to the record.
6	"(ii) Court proceedings.—If an in-
7	dividual is arrested for a covered non-
8	violent offense, criminal proceedings are in-
9	stituted against the individual for the of-
10	fense, the individual is not convicted of the
11	offense, and the individual is potentially el-
12	igible to file a sealing petition with respect
13	to the offense, on the date on which the
14	case relating to the offense is disposed of,
15	the court in which the criminal proceedings
16	take place shall, in writing, inform the in-
17	dividual of—
18	"(I) that potential eligibility;
19	"(II) the necessary procedures
20	for filing the sealing petition; and
21	"(III) the benefits of sealing a
22	record, including protection from civil
23	and criminal perjury, false swearing,
24	and false statement laws with respect
25	to the record.

1	"(b) Procedures.—
2	"(1) Notification to prosecutor.—If an in-
3	dividual files a petition under subsection (a) with re-
4	spect to a covered nonviolent offense or arrest for a
5	covered nonviolent offense, the district court in
6	which the petition is filed shall provide notice of the
7	petition—
8	"(A) to the office of the United States at-
9	torney that prosecuted or would have pros-
10	ecuted the petitioner for the offense; and
11	"(B) upon the request of the petitioner, to
12	any other individual that the petitioner deter-
13	mines may testify as to the—
14	"(i) conduct of the petitioner since the
15	date of the offense or arrest; or
16	"(ii) reasons that the sealing order
17	should be entered.
18	"(2) Hearing.—
19	"(A) In general.—Not later than 180
20	days after the date on which an individual files
21	a sealing petition, the district court shall—
22	"(i) except as provided in subpara-
23	graph (D), conduct a hearing in accord-
24	ance with subparagraph (B); and

1	"(ii) determine whether to enter a
2	sealing order for the individual in accord-
3	ance with paragraph (3).
4	"(B) Opportunity to testify and
5	OFFER EVIDENCE.—
6	"(i) Petitioner.—The petitioner
7	may testify or offer evidence at the sealing
8	hearing in support of sealing.
9	"(ii) Prosecutor.—The office of a
10	United States attorney that receives notice
11	under paragraph (1)(A) may send a rep-
12	resentative to testify or offer evidence at
13	the sealing hearing in support of or
14	against sealing.
15	"(iii) Other individuals.—An indi-
16	vidual who receives notice under paragraph
17	(1)(B) may testify or offer evidence at the
18	sealing hearing as to the issues described
19	in clauses (i) and (ii) of that paragraph.
20	"(C) Magistrate judges.—A magistrate
21	judge may preside over a hearing under this
22	paragraph.
23	"(D) WAIVER OF HEARING.—If the peti-
24	tioner and the United States attorney that re-
25	ceives notice under paragraph (1)(A) so agree.

1	the court shall make a determination under
2	paragraph (3) without a hearing.
3	"(3) Basis for decision.—
4	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining wheth-
5	er to enter a sealing order with respect to pro-
6	tected information relating to a covered non-
7	violent offense, the court—
8	"(i) shall consider—
9	"(I) the petition and any docu-
10	ments in the possession of the court;
11	and
12	"(II) all the evidence and testi-
13	mony presented at the sealing hear-
14	ing, if such a hearing is conducted;
15	"(ii) may not consider any non-Fed-
16	eral nonviolent crimes for which the peti-
17	tioner has been arrested or proceeded
18	against, or of which the petitioner has been
19	convicted; and
20	"(iii) shall balance—
21	"(I)(aa) the interest of public
22	knowledge and safety; and
23	"(bb) the legitimate interest, if
24	any, of the Government in maintain-
25	ing the accessibility of the protected

1	information, including any potential
2	impact of sealing the protected infor-
3	mation on Federal licensure, permit,
4	or employment restrictions; against
5	"(II)(aa) the conduct and dem-
6	onstrated desire of the petitioner to be
7	rehabilitated and positively contribute
8	to the community; and
9	"(bb) the interest of the peti-
10	tioner in having the protected infor-
11	mation sealed, including the harm of
12	the protected information to the abil-
13	ity of the petitioner to secure and
14	maintain employment.
15	"(B) Burden on Government.—The
16	burden shall be on the Government to show
17	that the interests under subclause (I) of sub-
18	paragraph (A)(iii) outweigh the interests of the
19	petitioner under subclause (II) of that subpara-
20	graph.
21	"(4) WAITING PERIOD AFTER DENIAL.—If the
22	district court denies a sealing petition, the petitioner
23	may not file a new sealing petition with respect to
24	the same offense until the date that is 2 years after
25	the date of the denial

1	"(5) Universal form.—The Director of the
2	Administrative Office of the United States Courts
3	shall create a universal form, available over the
4	internet and in paper form, that an individual may
5	use to file a sealing petition.
6	"(6) Fee Waiver.—The Director of the Ad-
7	ministrative Office of the United States Courts shall
8	by regulation establish a minimally burdensome
9	process under which indigent petitioners may obtain
10	a waiver of any fee for filing a sealing petition.
11	"(7) Reporting.—Not later than 2 years after
12	the date of enactment of this subchapter, and each
13	year thereafter, each district court of the United
14	States shall issue a public report that—
15	"(A) describes—
16	"(i) the number of sealing petitions
17	granted and denied under this section; and
18	"(ii) the number of instances in which
19	the office of a United States attorney sup-
20	ported or opposed a sealing petition;
21	"(B) includes any supporting data that the
22	court determines relevant and that does not
23	name any petitioner; and

1	"(C) disaggregates all relevant data by
2	race, ethnicity, gender, and the nature of the
3	offense.
4	"(8) Public defender eligibility.—
5	"(A) In General.—The district court
6	may, in its discretion, appoint counsel in ac-
7	cordance with the plan of the district court in
8	operation under section 3006A to represent a
9	petitioner for purposes of this section.
10	"(B) Considerations.—In making a de-
11	termination whether to appoint counsel under
12	subparagraph (A), the court shall consider—
13	"(i) the anticipated complexity of the
14	sealing hearing, including the number and
15	type of witnesses called to advocate against
16	the sealing of the protected information of
17	the petitioner; and
18	"(ii) the potential for adverse testi-
19	mony by a victim or a representative of the
20	office of the United States attorney.
21	"§ 3644. Effect of sealing order
22	"(a) In General.—Except as provided in this sec-
23	tion, if a district court of the United States enters a seal-
24	ing order with respect to a covered nonviolent offense, the
25	offense and any arrest, criminal proceeding, conviction, or

1	sentence relating to the offense shall be treated as if it
2	never occurred.
3	"(b) Verification of Sealing.—If a district court
4	of the United States enters a sealing order with respect
5	to a covered nonviolent offense, the court shall—
6	"(1) send a copy of the sealing order to each
7	entity or person known to the court that possesses
8	a record containing protected information that re-
9	lates to the offense, including each—
10	"(A) law enforcement agency; and
11	"(B) public or private correctional or de-
12	tention facility;
13	"(2) in the sealing order, require each entity or
14	person described in paragraph (1) to—
15	"(A) seal the record in accordance with
16	this section; and
17	"(B) submit a written certification to the
18	court, under penalty of perjury, that the entity
19	or person has sealed each paper and electronic
20	copy of the record;
21	"(3) seal each paper and electronic copy of the
22	record in the possession of the court; and
23	"(4) after receiving a written certification from
24	each entity or person under paragraph (2)(B), notify
25	the petitioner that each entity or person described in

1	paragraph (1) has sealed each paper and electronic
2	copy of the record.
3	"(c) Protection From Perjury Laws.—Except as
4	provided in subsection (f)(3)(A), a petitioner with respect
5	to whom a sealing order has been entered for a covered
6	nonviolent offense shall not be subject to prosecution
7	under any civil or criminal provision of Federal or State
8	law relating to perjury, false swearing, or making a false
9	statement, including section 1001, 1621, 1622, or 1623,
10	for failing to recite or acknowledge any protected informa-
11	tion with respect to the offense or respond to any inquiry
12	made of the petitioner, relating to the protected informa-
13	tion, for any purpose.
14	"(d) Attorney General Nonpublic Records.—
15	The Attorney General—
16	"(1) shall maintain a nonpublic record of all
17	protected information that has been sealed under
18	this subchapter; and
19	"(2) may access or use protected information
20	only—
21	"(A) for legitimate investigative purposes;
22	"(B) in defense of any civil suit arising out
23	of the facts of the arrest or subsequent pro-
24	ceedings; or

1	"(C) if the Attorney General determines
2	that disclosure is necessary to serve the inter-
3	ests of justice, public safety, or national secu-
4	rity.
5	"(e) Law Enforcement Access.—A Federal or
6	State law enforcement agency may access a record that
7	is sealed under this subchapter solely—
8	"(1) to determine whether the individual to
9	whom the record relates is eligible for a first-time-
10	offender diversion program;
11	"(2) for investigatory, prosecutorial, or Federal
12	supervision purposes; or
13	"(3) for a background check that relates to law
14	enforcement employment or any employment that re-
15	quires a government security clearance.
16	"(f) Prohibition on Disclosure.—
17	"(1) Prohibition.—Except as provided in
18	paragraph (3), it shall be unlawful to intentionally
19	make or attempt to make an unauthorized disclosure
20	of any protected information from a record that has
21	been sealed under this subchapter.
22	"(2) Penalty.—Any person who violates para-
23	graph (1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned
24	for not more than 1 year, or both.
25	"(3) Exceptions.—

1	"(A) Background Checks.—An indi-
2	vidual who is the subject of a record sealed
3	under this subchapter shall, and a Federal or
4	State law enforcement agency that possesses
5	such a record may, disclose the record in the
6	case of a background check for—
7	"(i) law enforcement employment; or
8	"(ii) any position that a Federal agen-
9	cy designates as a—
10	"(I) national security position; or
11	"(II) high-risk, public trust posi-
12	tion.
13	"(B) DISCLOSURE TO ARMED FORCES.—A
14	person may disclose protected information from
15	a record sealed under this subchapter to the
16	Secretaries of the military departments (or the
17	Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to
18	the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a
19	service in the Navy) for the purpose of vetting
20	an enlistment or commission, or with regard to
21	any member of the Armed Forces.
22	"(C) Criminal and Juvenile Pro-
23	ceedings.—A prosecutor may disclose pro-
24	tected information from a record sealed under

1	this subchapter if the information pertains to a
2	potential witness in a Federal or State—
3	"(i) criminal proceeding; or
4	"(ii) juvenile delinquency proceeding.
5	"(D) AUTHORIZATION FOR INDIVIDUAL TO
6	DISCLOSE OWN RECORD.—An individual who is
7	the subject of a record sealed under this sub-
8	chapter may choose to disclose the record.".
9	(e) Applicability.—Sections 3642 and 3643 of title
10	18, United States Code, as added by subsection (b), shall
11	apply with respect to a covered nonviolent offense (as de-
12	fined in section 3641(a) of such title) that is committed
13	or alleged to have been committed before, on, or after the
14	date of enactment of this Act.
15	(d) Transition Period for Hearings Dead-
16	LINE.—During the 1-year period beginning on the date
17	of enactment of this Act, section 3643(b)(2)(A) of title
18	18, United States Code, as added by subsection (b), shall
19	be applied by substituting "1 year" for "180 days".
20	(e) Technical and Conforming Amendment.—
21	The table of subchapters for chapter 229 of title 18,
22	United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
23	following:
	"E. Sealing of Criminal Records
24	SEC. 3. JUVENILE SEALING AND EXPUNGEMENT.
25	(a) Purpose.—The purpose of this section is to—

1	(1) protect children and adults against damage
2	stemming from their juvenile acts and subsequent
3	juvenile delinquency records, including law enforce-
4	ment, arrest, and court records; and
5	(2) prevent the unauthorized use or disclosure
6	of confidential juvenile delinquency records and any
7	potential employment, financial, psychological, or
8	other harm that would result from such unauthor-
9	ized use or disclosure.
10	(b) Definitions.—Section 5031 of title 18, United
11	States Code, is amended to read as follows:
12	"§ 5031. Definitions
13	"In this chapter—
14	"(1) the term 'adjudication' means a deter-
15	mination by a judge that a person committed an act
16	of juvenile delinquency;
17	"(2) the term 'conviction' means a judgment or
18	disposition in criminal court against a person fol-
19	lowing a finding of guilt by a judge or jury;
20	"(3) the term 'destroy' means to render a file
21	unreadable, whether paper, electronic, or otherwise
22	stored, by shredding, pulverizing, pulping, incin-
23	erating, overwriting, reformatting the media, or
24	
	other means;

1	"(A) means to destroy a record and oblit-
2	erate the name of the person to whom the
3	record pertains from each official index or pub-
4	lie record; and
5	"(B) has the effect described in section
6	5045(c), including—
7	"(i) the right to treat an offense to
8	which an expunged record relates, and any
9	arrest, juvenile delinquency proceeding, ad-
10	judication, or other result of such pro-
11	ceeding relating to the offense, as if it
12	never occurred; and
13	"(ii) protection from civil and criminal
14	perjury, false swearing, and false state-
15	ment laws with respect to an expunged
16	record;
17	"(5) the term 'expungement hearing' means a
18	hearing held under section 5045(b)(2)(B);
19	"(6) the term 'expungement petition' means a
20	petition for expungement filed under section
21	5045(b);
22	"(7) the term 'juvenile' means—
23	"(A) except as provided in subparagraph
24	(B), a person who has not attained the age of
25	18; and

1	"(B) for the purpose of proceedings and
2	disposition under this chapter for an alleged act
3	of juvenile delinquency, a person who has not
4	attained the age of 21;
5	"(8) the term 'juvenile delinquency' means the
6	violation of a law of the United States committed by
7	a person before attaining the age of 18 which would
8	have been a crime if committed by an adult, or a
9	violation by such a person of section 922(x);
10	"(9) the term 'juvenile nonviolent offense'
11	means an act of juvenile delinquency that is not—
12	"(A) a violent crime (as defined in section
13	103 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
14	Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11103)); or
15	"(B) a sex offense (as defined in section
16	111 of the Sex Offender Registration and Noti-
17	fication Act (34 U.S.C. 20911));
18	"(10) the term 'juvenile record'—
19	"(A) means a record maintained by a
20	court, the probation system, a law enforcement
21	agency, or any other government agency, of the
22	juvenile delinquency proceedings of a person;
23	and
24	"(B) includes—

1	"(i) a juvenile legal file, including a
2	formal document such as a petition, notice,
3	motion, legal memorandum, order, or de-
4	${\it cree};$
5	"(ii) a social record, including—
6	"(I) a record of a probation offi-
7	cer;
8	"(II) a record of any government
9	agency that keeps records relating to
10	juvenile delinquency;
11	"(III) a medical record;
12	"(IV) a psychiatric or psycho-
13	logical record;
14	"(V) a birth certificate;
15	"(VI) an education record, in-
16	cluding an individualized education
17	plan;
18	"(VII) a detention record;
19	"(VIII) demographic information
20	that identifies a juvenile or the family
21	of a juvenile; or
22	"(IX) any other record that in-
23	cludes personally identifiable informa-
24	tion that may be associated with a ju-
25	venile delinquency proceeding, an act

1	of juvenile delinquency, or an alleged
2	act of juvenile delinquency;
3	"(iii) a law enforcement record, in-
4	cluding—
5	"(I) fingerprints;
6	"(II) a DNA sample; or
7	"(III) a photograph; and
8	"(iv) a State criminal justice informa-
9	tion system record;
10	"(11) the term 'petitioner' means a person who
11	files an expungement petition or a sealing petition;
12	"(12) the term 'seal'—
13	"(A) means—
14	"(i) to close a record from public
15	viewing so that the record cannot be exam-
16	ined except by court order; and
17	"(ii) to physically seal the record shut
18	and label the record 'SEALED' or, in the
19	case of an electronic record, the sub-
20	stantive equivalent; and
21	"(B) has the effect described in section
22	5044(c), including—
23	"(i) the right to treat an offense to
24	which a sealed record relates, and any ar-
25	rest, juvenile delinquency proceeding, adju-

1	dication, or other result of such proceeding
2	relating to the offense, as if it never oc-
3	curred; and
4	"(ii) protection from civil and criminal
5	perjury, false swearing, and false state-
6	ment laws with respect to a sealed record;
7	"(13) the term 'sealing hearing' means a hear-
8	ing held under section 5044(b)(2)(B); and
9	"(14) the term 'sealing petition' means a peti-
10	tion for a sealing order filed under section
11	5044(b).".
12	(c) Confidentiality.—Section 5038 of title 18,
13	United States Code, is amended—
14	(1) in subsection (a), in the flush text following
15	paragraph (6), by inserting after "bonding," the fol-
16	lowing: "participation in an educational system,";
17	and
18	(2) in subsection (b), by striking "District
19	courts exercising jurisdiction over any juvenile" and
20	inserting the following: "Not later than 7 days after
21	the date on which a district court exercises jurisdic-
22	tion over a juvenile, the district court".
23	(d) Sealing; Expungement.—

1	(1) In General.—Chapter 403 of title 18
2	United States Code, is amended by adding at the
3	end the following:
4	"§ 5044. Sealing
5	"(a) Automatic Sealing of Nonviolent Of-
6	FENSES.—
7	"(1) IN GENERAL.—Three years after the date
8	on which a person who is adjudicated delinquent
9	under this chapter for a juvenile nonviolent offense
10	completes every term of probation, official detention
11	or juvenile delinquent supervision ordered by the
12	court with respect to the offense, the court shall
13	order the sealing of each juvenile record or portion
14	thereof that relates to the offense if the person—
15	"(A) has not been convicted of a crime or
16	adjudicated delinquent for an act of juvenile de-
17	linquency since the date of the disposition; and
18	"(B) is not engaged in active criminal
19	court proceedings or juvenile delinquency pro-
20	ceedings.
21	"(2) Automatic nature of sealing.—The
22	order of sealing under paragraph (1) shall require
23	no action by the person whose juvenile records are
24	to be sealed

"(3) Notice \mathbf{OF} AUTOMATIC SEALING.—A court that orders the sealing of a juvenile record of a person under paragraph (1) shall, in writing, in-form the person of the sealing and the benefits of sealing the record, including protection from civil and criminal perjury, false swearing, and false state-ment laws with respect to the record.

8 "(b) Petitioning for Early Sealing of Non-9 violent Offenses.—

"(1) RIGHT TO FILE SEALING PETITION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date on which a person who is adjudicated delinquent under this chapter for a juvenile nonviolent offense completes every term of probation, official detention, or juvenile delinquent supervision ordered by the court with respect to the offense, the person may petition the court to seal the juvenile records that relate to the offense.

"(B) NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE PETITION.—If a person is adjudged delinquent for a juvenile nonviolent offense, the court in which the person is adjudged delinquent shall, in writing, inform the person of the potential eligibility of the person to file a sealing petition

1	with respect to the offense upon completing
2	every term of probation, official detention, or
3	juvenile delinquent supervision ordered by the
4	court with respect to the offense, and the nec-
5	essary procedures for filing the sealing peti-
6	tion—
7	"(i) on the date on which the indi-
8	vidual is adjudged delinquent; and
9	"(ii) on the date on which the indi-
10	vidual has completed every term of proba-
11	tion, official detention, or juvenile delin-
12	quent supervision ordered by the court
13	with respect to the offense.
14	"(2) Procedures.—
15	"(A) Notification to prosecutor.—If
16	a person files a sealing petition with respect to
17	a juvenile nonviolent offense, the court in which
18	the petition is filed shall provide notice of the
19	petition—
20	"(i) to the Attorney General; and
21	"(ii) upon the request of the peti-
22	tioner, to any other individual that the pe-
23	titioner determines may testify as to—
24	"(I) the conduct of the petitioner
25	since the date of the offense; or

1	"(II) the reasons that the sealing
2	order should be entered.
3	"(B) Hearing.—
4	"(i) In general.—Not later than
5	180 days after the date on which a person
6	files a sealing petition, the court shall—
7	"(I) except as provided in clause
8	(iii), conduct a hearing in accordance
9	with clause (ii); and
10	"(II) determine whether to enter
11	a sealing order for the person in ac-
12	cordance with subparagraph (C).
13	"(ii) Opportunity to testify and
14	OFFER EVIDENCE.—
15	"(I) Petitioner.—The peti-
16	tioner may testify or offer evidence at
17	the sealing hearing in support of seal-
18	ing.
19	"(II) Prosecutor.—The Attor-
20	ney General may send a representa-
21	tive to testify or offer evidence at the
22	sealing hearing in support of or
23	against sealing.
24	"(III) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—An
25	individual who receives notice under

1	subparagraph (A)(ii) may testify or
2	offer evidence at the sealing hearing
3	as to the issues described in sub-
4	clauses (I) and (II) of that subpara-
5	graph.
6	"(iii) Waiver of Hearing.—If the
7	petitioner and the Attorney General so
8	agree, the court shall make a determina-
9	tion under subparagraph (C) without a
10	hearing.
11	"(C) Basis for Decision.—The court
12	shall determine whether to grant the sealing pe-
13	tition after considering—
14	"(i) the sealing petition and any docu-
15	ments in the possession of the court;
16	"(ii) all the evidence and testimony
17	presented at the sealing hearing, if such a
18	hearing is conducted;
19	"(iii) the best interests of the peti-
20	tioner;
21	"(iv) the age of the petitioner during
22	his or her contact with the court or any
23	law enforcement agency;
24	"(v) the nature of the juvenile non-
25	violent offense:

1	"(vi) the disposition of the case;
2	"(vii) the manner in which the peti-
3	tioner participated in any court-ordered re-
4	habilitative programming or supervised
5	services;
6	"(viii) the length of the time period
7	during which the petitioner has been with-
8	out contact with any court or law enforce-
9	ment agency;
10	"(ix) whether the petitioner has had
11	any criminal or juvenile delinquency in-
12	volvement since the disposition of the juve-
13	nile delinquency proceeding; and
14	"(x) the adverse consequences the pe-
15	titioner may suffer if the petition is not
16	granted.
17	"(D) Waiting Period After Denial.—If
18	the court denies a sealing petition, the peti-
19	tioner may not file a new sealing petition with
20	respect to the same juvenile nonviolent offense
21	until the date that is 2 years after the date of
22	the denial.
23	"(E) Universal form.—The Director of
24	the Administrative Office of the United States
25	Courts shall create a universal form, available

1	over the internet and in paper form, that an in-
2	dividual may use to file a sealing petition.
3	"(F) No fee for sealing.—There shall
4	be no cost for filing a sealing petition.
5	"(G) Reporting.—Not later than 2 years
6	after the date of enactment of this section, and
7	each year thereafter, each district court of the
8	United States shall issue a public report that—
9	"(i) describes—
10	"(I) the number of sealing peti-
11	tions granted and denied under this
12	subsection; and
13	"(II) the number of instances in
14	which the Attorney General supported
15	or opposed a sealing petition;
16	"(ii) includes any supporting data
17	that the court determines relevant and that
18	does not name any petitioner; and
19	"(iii) disaggregates all relevant data
20	by race, ethnicity, gender, and the nature
21	of the offense.
22	"(H) Public defender eligibility.—
23	"(i) Petitioners under age 18.—
24	The district court shall appoint counsel in
25	accordance with the plan of the district

1	court in operation under section 3006A to
2	represent a petitioner for purposes of this
3	subsection if the petitioner is less than 18
4	years of age.
5	"(ii) Petitioners age 18 and
6	OLDER.—
7	"(I) DISCRETION OF COURT.—In
8	the case of a petitioner who not less
9	than 18 years of age, the district
10	court may, in its discretion, appoint
11	counsel in accordance with the plan of
12	the district court in operation under
13	section 3006A to represent the peti-
14	tioner for purposes of this subsection.
15	"(II) Considerations.—In de-
16	termining whether to appoint counsel
17	under subclause (I), the court shall
18	consider—
19	"(aa) the anticipated com-
20	plexity of the sealing hearing, in-
21	cluding the number and type of
22	witnesses called to advocate
23	against the sealing of the records
24	of the petitioner; and

1	"(bb) the potential for ad-
2	verse testimony by a victim or a
3	representative of the Attorney
4	General.
5	"(c) Effect of Sealing Order.—
6	"(1) In general.—Except as provided in this
7	subsection, if a court orders the sealing of a juvenile
8	record under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a
9	juvenile nonviolent offense, the offense and any ar-
10	rest, juvenile delinquency proceeding, adjudication,
11	or other result of such proceeding relating to the of-
12	fense shall be treated as if it never occurred.
13	"(2) Verification of sealing.—If a court
14	orders the sealing of a juvenile record under sub-
15	section (a) or (b) with respect to a juvenile non-
16	violent offense, the court shall—
17	"(A) send a copy of the sealing order to
18	each entity or person known to the court that
19	possesses a record relating to the offense, in-
20	cluding each—
21	"(i) law enforcement agency; and
22	"(ii) public or private correctional or
23	detention facility;

1	"(B) in the sealing order, require each en-
2	tity or person described in subparagraph (A)
3	to—
4	"(i) seal the record; and
5	"(ii) submit a written certification to
6	the court, under penalty of perjury, that
7	the entity or person has sealed each paper
8	and electronic copy of the record;
9	"(C) seal each paper and electronic copy of
10	the record in the possession of the court; and
11	"(D) after receiving a written certification
12	from each entity or person under subparagraph
13	(B)(ii), notify the petitioner that each entity or
14	person described in subparagraph (A) has
15	sealed each paper and electronic copy of the
16	record.
17	"(3) Protection from Perjury Laws.—Ex-
18	cept as provided in paragraph (5)(C)(i), the person
19	who is the subject of a juvenile record sealed under
20	subsection (a) or (b) or a parent of the person shall
21	not be subject to prosecution under any civil or
22	criminal provision of Federal or State law relating to
23	perjury, false swearing, or making a false statement,
24	including section 1001, 1621, 1622, or 1623, for
25	failing to acknowledge the record or respond to any

1	inquiry made of the person or the parent, relating
2	to the record, for any purpose.
3	"(4) Law enforcement access to sealed
4	RECORDS.—A law enforcement agency may access a
5	sealed juvenile record of a person solely—
6	"(A) to determine whether the person is el-
7	igible for a first-time-offender diversion pro-
8	gram;
9	"(B) for investigatory or prosecutorial pur-
10	poses within the juvenile justice system; or
11	"(C) for a background check that relates
12	to—
13	"(i) law enforcement employment; or
14	"(ii) any position that a Federal agen-
15	cy designates as a—
16	"(I) national security position; or
17	"(II) high-risk, public trust posi-
18	tion.
19	"(5) Prohibition on disclosure.—
20	"(A) Prohibition.—Except as provided
21	in subparagraph (C), it shall be unlawful to in-
22	tentionally make or attempt to make an unau-
23	thorized disclosure of any information from a
24	sealed juvenile record in violation of this sec-
25	tion.

1	"(B) Penalty.—Any person who violates
2	subparagraph (A) shall be fined under this title,
3	imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.
4	"(C) Exceptions.—
5	"(i) Background Checks.—A per-
6	son who is the subject of a juvenile record
7	sealed under this section shall, and a Fed-
8	eral or State law enforcement agency that
9	possesses such a record may, disclose the
10	record in the case of a background check
11	for—
12	"(I) law enforcement employ-
13	ment; or
14	"(II) any employment that re-
15	quires a government security clear-
16	ance.
17	"(ii) Disclosure to armed
18	FORCES.—A person may disclose informa-
19	tion from a sealed juvenile record to the
20	Secretaries of the military departments (or
21	the Secretary of Homeland Security with
22	respect to the Coast Guard when it is not
23	operating as a service in the Navy) for the
24	purpose of vetting an enlistment or com-

1	mission, or with regard to any member of
2	the Armed Forces.
3	"(iii) Criminal and Juvenile pro-
4	CEEDINGS.—A prosecutor may disclose in-
5	formation from a juvenile record sealed
6	under this section if the information per-
7	tains to a potential witness in a Federal or
8	State—
9	"(I) criminal proceeding; or
10	"(II) juvenile delinquency pro-
11	ceeding.
12	"(iv) Authorization for Person
13	TO DISCLOSE OWN RECORD.—A person
14	who is the subject of a juvenile record
15	sealed under this section may choose to
16	disclose the record.
17	"§ 5045. Expungement
18	"(a) Automatic Expungement of Certain
19	Records.—
20	"(1) ATTORNEY GENERAL MOTION.—
21	"(A) Nonviolent offenses committed
22	BEFORE A PERSON TURNED 15.—If a person is
23	adjudicated delinquent under this chapter for a
24	juvenile nonviolent offense committed before the
25	person attained 15 years of age, on the date on

which the person attains 18 years of age, the Attorney General shall file a motion in the district court of the United States in which the person was adjudicated delinquent requesting that each juvenile record of the person that relates to the offense be expunged.

- "(B) ARRESTS.—If a juvenile is arrested for an offense for which a juvenile delinquency proceeding is not instituted under this subchapter, the Attorney General shall file a motion in the district court of the United States that would have had jurisdiction of the proceeding requesting that each juvenile record relating to the arrest be expunged.
- "(C) EXPUNGEMENT ORDER.—Upon the filing of a motion in a district court of the United States with respect to a juvenile non-violent offense under subparagraph (A) or an arrest for an offense under subparagraph (B), the court shall grant the motion and order that each juvenile record relating to the offense or arrest, as applicable, be expunged.
- "(2) DISMISSED CASES.—If a district court of the United States dismisses an information with respect to a juvenile under this subchapter or finds a

- 1 juvenile not to be delinquent in a juvenile delin-2 quency proceeding under this subchapter, the court 3 shall concurrently order that each juvenile record re-
- 4 lating to the applicable proceeding be expunged.
- 6 An order of expungement under paragraph (1)(C) or

"(3) Automatic nature of expungement.—

- 7 (2) shall not require any action by the person whose
- 8 records are to be expunged.

5

- 9 "(4) Notice of automatic expundement.—
- A court that orders the expungement of a juvenile
- 11 record of a person under paragraph (1)(C) or (2)
- 12 shall, in writing, inform the person of
- 13 expungement and the benefits of expunging the
- 14 record, including protection from civil and criminal
- 15 perjury, false swearing, and false statement laws
- 16 with respect to the record.
- 17 "(b) Petitioning for Expundement of Non-
- 18 VIOLENT OFFENSES.—
- 19 "(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who is adjudged
- 20 delinquent under this chapter for a juvenile non-
- 21 violent offense committed on or after the date on
- 22 which the person attained 15 years of age may peti-
- 23 tion the court in which the proceeding took place to
- 24 order the expungement of the juvenile record that
- 25 relates to the offense.

1	"(2) Procedures.—
2	"(A) NOTIFICATION OF PROSECUTOR AND
3	VICTIMS.—If a person files an expungement pe-
4	tition with respect to a juvenile nonviolent of-
5	fense, the court in which the petition is filed
6	shall provide notice of the petition—
7	"(i) to the Attorney General; and
8	"(ii) upon the request of the peti-
9	tioner, to any other individual that the pe-
10	titioner determines may testify as to—
11	"(I) the conduct of the petitioner
12	since the date of the offense; or
13	"(II) the reasons that the
14	expungement order should be entered.
15	"(B) Hearing.—
16	"(i) In general.—Not later than
17	180 days after the date on which a person
18	files an expungement petition, the court
19	shall—
20	"(I) except as provided in clause
21	(iii), conduct a hearing in accordance
22	with clause (ii); and
23	"(II) determine whether to enter
24	an expungement order for the person
25	in accordance with subparagraph (C).

1	"(ii) Opportunity to testify and
2	OFFER EVIDENCE.—
3	"(I) Petitioner.—The peti-
4	tioner may testify or offer evidence at
5	the expungement hearing in support
6	of expungement.
7	"(II) Prosecutor.—The Attor-
8	ney General may send a representa-
9	tive to testify or offer evidence at the
10	expungement hearing in support of or
11	against expungement.
12	"(III) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—An
13	individual who receives notice under
14	subparagraph (A)(ii) may testify or
15	offer evidence at the expungement
16	hearing as to the issues described in
17	subclauses (I) and (II) of that sub-
18	paragraph.
19	"(C) Basis for decision.—The court
20	shall determine whether to grant an expunge-
21	ment petition after considering—
22	"(i) the petition and any documents in
23	the possession of the court

1	"(ii) all the evidence and testimony
2	presented at the expungement hearing, if
3	such a hearing is conducted;
4	"(iii) the best interests of the peti-
5	tioner;
6	"(iv) the age of the petitioner during
7	his or her contact with the court or any
8	law enforcement agency;
9	"(v) the nature of the juvenile non-
10	violent offense;
11	"(vi) the disposition of the case;
12	"(vii) the manner in which the peti-
13	tioner participated in any court-ordered re-
14	habilitative programming or supervised
15	services;
16	"(viii) the length of the time period
17	during which the petitioner has been with-
18	out contact with any court or any law en-
19	forcement agency;
20	"(ix) whether the petitioner has had
21	any criminal or juvenile delinquency in-
22	volvement since the disposition of the juve-
23	nile delinquency proceeding; and

1	"(x) the adverse consequences the pe-
2	titioner may suffer if the petition is not
3	granted.
4	"(D) Waiting Period After Denial.—If
5	the court denies an expungement petition, the
6	petitioner may not file a new expungement peti-
7	tion with respect to the same offense until the
8	date that is 2 years after the date of the denial.
9	"(E) Universal form.—The Director of
10	the Administrative Office of the United States
11	Courts shall create a universal form, available
12	over the internet and in paper form, that an in-
13	dividual may use to file an expungement peti-
14	tion.
15	"(F) No fee for expungement.—There
16	shall be no cost for filing an expungement peti-
17	tion.
18	"(G) Reporting.—Not later than 2 years
19	after the date of enactment of this section, and
20	each year thereafter, each district court of the
21	United States shall issue a public report that—
22	"(i) describes—
23	"(I) the number of expungement
24	petitions granted and denied under
25	this subsection; and

1	"(II) the number of instances in
2	which the Attorney General supported
3	or opposed an expungement petition;
4	"(ii) includes any supporting data
5	that the court determines relevant and that
6	does not name any petitioner; and
7	"(iii) disaggregates all relevant data
8	by race, ethnicity, gender, and the nature
9	of the offense.
10	"(H) Public defender eligibility.—
11	"(i) Petitioners under age 18.—
12	The district court shall appoint counsel in
13	accordance with the plan of the district
14	court in operation under section 3006A to
15	represent a petitioner for purposes of this
16	subsection if the petitioner is less than 18
17	years of age.
18	"(ii) Petitioners age 18 and
19	OLDER.—
20	"(I) Discretion of court.—In
21	the case of a petitioner who not less
22	than 18 years of age, the district
23	court may, in its discretion, appoint
24	counsel in accordance with the plan of
25	the district court in operation under

1	section 3006A to represent the peti-
2	tioner for purposes of this subsection.
3	"(II) Considerations.—In de-
4	termining whether to appoint counsel
5	under subclause (I), the court shall
6	consider—
7	"(aa) the anticipated com-
8	plexity of the expungement hear-
9	ing, including the number and
10	type of witnesses called to advo-
11	cate against the expungement of
12	the records of the petitioner; and
13	"(bb) the potential for ad-
14	verse testimony by a victim or a
15	representative of the Attorney
16	General.
17	"(c) Effect of Expunded Juvenile Record.—
18	"(1) In general.—Except as provided in this
19	subsection, if a court orders the expungement of a
20	juvenile record under subsection (a) or (b) with re-
21	spect to a juvenile nonviolent offense—
22	"(A) the offense and any arrest, juvenile
23	delinquency proceeding, adjudication, or other
24	result of such proceeding relating to the offense
25	shall be treated as if it never occurred; and

1	"(B) the person to whom the record per-
2	tains shall not be required to disclose the exist-
3	ence of the record.
4	"(2) Verification of expundement.—If a
5	court orders the expungement of a juvenile record
6	under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a juvenile
7	nonviolent offense, the court shall—
8	"(A) send a copy of the expungement order
9	to each entity or person known to the court
10	that possesses a record relating to the offense,
11	including each—
12	"(i) law enforcement agency; and
13	"(ii) public or private correctional or
14	detention facility;
15	"(B) in the expungement order, require
16	each entity or person described in subparagraph
17	(A) to—
18	"(i) destroy the record; and
19	"(ii) submit a written certification to
20	the court, under penalty of perjury, that
21	the entity or person has destroyed each
22	paper and electronic copy of the record;
23	"(C) destroy each paper and electronic
24	copy of the record in the possession of the
25	court; and

"(D) after receiving a written certification from each entity or person under subparagraph (B)(ii), notify the petitioner that each entity or person described in subparagraph (A) has destroyed each paper and electronic copy of the record.

"(3) Reply to inquires.—In the case of an inquiry relating to a juvenile record of a person that is expunged under this section, the court in which the proceeding took place, each law enforcement officer, any agency that provided treatment or rehabilitation services to the person, and the person (except as provided in paragraph (6)) shall reply to the inquiry that no such juvenile record exists.

"(4) Protection from Perjury Laws.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), if a juvenile record of a person is expunged under this section, the person who is the subject of the record or a parent of the person shall not be subject to prosecution under any civil or criminal provision of Federal or State law relating to perjury, false swearing, or making a false statement, including section 1001, 1621, 1622, or 1623, for failing to acknowledge the record or respond to any inquiry made of the person

1 or the parent, relating to the record, for any pur-2 pose. 3 "(5) CIVIL ACTIONS.— "(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person whose ju-4 venile record is expunged under this section 6 brings an action that might be defended with 7 the contents of the record, there shall be a re-8 buttable presumption that the defendant has a 9 complete defense to the action. 10 "(B) SHOWING BY PLAINTIFF.—In an ac-11 tion described in subparagraph (A), the plaintiff 12 may rebut the presumption of a complete de-13 fense by showing that the contents of the ex-14 punged record would not prevent the defendant 15 from being liable. "(C) Duty to testify as to existence 16 17 OF RECORD.—The court in which an action de-18 scribed in subparagraph (A) is filed may re-19 quire the plaintiff to state under oath whether 20 the plaintiff had a juvenile record and whether 21 the record was expunged. 22 "(D) Proof of existence of Juvenile 23 RECORD.—If the plaintiff in an action described 24 in subparagraph (A) denies the existence of a

juvenile record, the defendant may prove the ex-

- istence of the record in any manner compatiblewith the applicable laws of evidence.
- 3 "(6) CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE PRO-4 CEEDINGS.—A prosecutor may disclose information 5 from a juvenile record expunged under this section 6 if the information pertains to a potential witness in 7 a Federal or State—
- 8 "(A) criminal proceeding; or
- 9 "(B) juvenile delinquency proceeding.
 - "(7) AUTHORIZATION FOR PERSON TO DIS-CLOSE OWN RECORD.—A person who is the subject of a juvenile record expunged under this section may choose to disclose the record.".
- 14 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND15 MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 403 of
 16 title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding
 17 at the end the following:

"5044. Sealing. "5045. Expungement.".

10

11

12

13

of title 18, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply with respect to a juvenile non-violent offense (as defined in section 5031 of such title, as amended by subsection (b)) that is committed or alleged to have been committed before, on,

or after the date of enactment of this Act.

1	(e) Juvenile Solitary Confinement.—Chapter
2	403 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this
3	section, is further amended by striking section 5043 and
4	inserting the following:
5	"§ 5043. Juvenile solitary confinement
6	"(a) Definitions.—In this section—
7	"(1) the term 'covered juvenile' means—
8	"(A) a juvenile who—
9	"(i) is being proceeded against under
10	this chapter for an alleged act of juvenile
11	delinquency; or
12	"(ii) has been adjudicated delinquent
13	under this chapter; or
14	"(B) a juvenile who is being proceeded
15	against as an adult in a district court of the
16	United States for an alleged criminal offense;
17	"(2) the term 'juvenile facility' means any facil-
18	ity where covered juveniles are—
19	"(A) committed pursuant to an adjudica-
20	tion of delinquency under this chapter; or
21	"(B) detained prior to disposition or con-
22	viction; and
23	"(3) the term 'room confinement' means the in-
24	voluntary placement of a covered juvenile alone in a
25	cell, room, or other area for any reason.

1	"(b) Prohibition on Room Confinement in Ju-
2	VENILE FACILITIES.—
3	"(1) In general.—The use of room confine-
4	ment at a juvenile facility for discipline, punishment,
5	retaliation, or any reason other than as a temporary
6	response to a covered juvenile's behavior that poses
7	a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to
8	any individual, including the covered juvenile, is pro-
9	hibited.
10	"(2) Juveniles posing risk of harm.—
11	"(A) REQUIREMENT TO USE LEAST RE-
12	STRICTIVE TECHNIQUES.—
13	"(i) In general.—Before a staff
14	member of a juvenile facility places a cov-
15	ered juvenile in room confinement, the
16	staff member shall attempt to use less re-
17	strictive techniques, including—
18	"(I) talking with the covered ju-
19	venile in an attempt to de-escalate the
20	situation; and
21	"(II) permitting a qualified men-
22	tal health professional, or a staff
23	member who has received training in
24	de-escalation techniques and trauma-

1	informed care, to talk to the covered
2	juvenile.
3	"(ii) Explanation.—If, after at-
4	tempting to use less restrictive techniques
5	as required under clause (i), a staff mem-
6	ber of a juvenile facility decides to place a
7	covered juvenile in room confinement, the
8	staff member shall first—
9	"(I) explain to the covered juve-
10	nile the reasons for the room confine-
11	ment; and
12	"(II) inform the covered juvenile
13	that release from room confinement
14	will occur—
15	"(aa) immediately when the
16	covered juvenile regains self-con-
17	trol, as described in subpara-
18	graph (B)(i); or
19	"(bb) not later than after
20	the expiration of the time period
21	described in subclause (I) or (II)
22	of subparagraph (B)(ii), as appli-
23	cable.
24	"(B) Maximum period of confine-
25	MENT.—If a covered juvenile is placed in room

1	confinement because the covered juvenile poses
2	a serious and immediate risk of physical harm
3	to himself or herself, or to others, the covered
4	juvenile shall be released—
5	"(i) immediately when the covered ju-
6	venile has sufficiently gained control so as
7	to no longer engage in behavior that
8	threatens serious and immediate risk of
9	physical harm to himself or herself, or to
10	others; or
11	"(ii) if a covered juvenile does not suf-
12	ficiently gain control as described in clause
13	(i), not later than—
14	"(I) 3 hours after being placed in
15	room confinement, in the case of a
16	covered juvenile who poses a serious
17	and immediate risk of physical harm
18	to others; or
19	"(II) 30 minutes after being
20	placed in room confinement, in the
21	case of a covered juvenile who poses a
22	serious and immediate risk of physical
23	harm only to himself or herself.
24	"(C) RISK OF HARM AFTER MAXIMUM PE-
25	RIOD OF CONFINEMENT.—If, after the applica-

1	ble maximum period of confinement under sub-
2	clause (I) or (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii) has
3	expired, a covered juvenile continues to pose a
4	serious and immediate risk of physical harm de-
5	scribed in that subclause—
6	"(i) the covered juvenile shall be
7	transferred immediately to another juvenile
8	facility or internal location where services
9	can be provided to the covered juvenile
10	without relying on room confinement; or
11	"(ii) if a qualified mental health pro-
12	fessional believes the level of crisis service
13	needed is not currently available, a staff
14	member of the juvenile facility shall imme-
15	diately transport the juvenile to—
16	"(I) an emergency medical facil-
17	ity; or
18	"(II) an equivalent location that
19	can meet the needs of the covered ju-
20	venile.
21	"(D) ACTION BEFORE EXPIRATION OF
22	TIME LIMIT.—Nothing in subparagraph (C)
23	shall be construed to prohibit an action de-
24	scribed in clause (i) or (ii) of that subparagraph
25	from being taken before the applicable max-

1	imum period of confinement under subclause (I)
2	or (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii) has expired.
3	"(E) CONDITIONS.—A room used for room
4	confinement for a juvenile shall—
5	"(i) have not less than 80 square feet
6	of floor space;
7	"(ii) have adequate lighting, heating
8	or cooling (as applicable), and ventilation
9	for the comfort of the juvenile;
10	"(iii) be suicide-resistant and protru-
11	sion-free; and
12	"(iv) have access to clean potable
13	water, toilet facilities, and hygiene sup-
14	plies.
15	"(F) Notice.—
16	"(i) Use of room confinement.—
17	Not later than 1 business day after the
18	date on which a juvenile facility places a
19	covered juvenile in room confinement, the
20	juvenile facility shall provide notice to the
21	attorney of record for the juvenile.
22	"(ii) Transfer.—Not later than 24
23	hours after a covered juvenile is trans-
24	ferred from a juvenile facility to another

1	location, the juvenile facility shall provide
2	notice to—
3	"(I) the attorney of record for
4	the juvenile; and
5	"(II) an authorized parent or
6	guardian of the juvenile.
7	"(G) Spirit and Purpose.—The use of
8	consecutive periods of room confinement to
9	evade the spirit and purpose of this subsection
10	shall be prohibited.
11	"(c) Study and Report.—Not later than 2 years
12	after the date of enactment of this section, and each year
13	thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress
14	a report that—
15	"(1) contains a detailed description of the type
16	of physical force, restraints, and room confinement
17	used at juvenile facilities;
18	"(2) describes the number of instances in which
19	physical force, restraints, or room confinement are
20	used at juvenile facilities, disaggregated by race, eth-
21	nicity, and gender; and
22	"(3) contains a detailed description of steps
23	taken, in each instance in which room confinement
24	is used at a juvenile facility, to address and remedy
25	the underlying issue that led to behavioral interven-

1	tion resulting in the use of room confinement, in
2	cluding any positive or negative outcomes.".
3	SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT ON COST SAVINGS FROM SEAL
4	ING AND EXPUNGEMENT PROVISIONS.
5	(a) Study.—
6	(1) In general.—Not later than 5 years after
7	the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen
8	eral, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and
9	the Director of the Office of Management and Budg
10	et, shall conduct a study on the cost savings and
11	broader economic impact of the sealing and
12	expungement provisions in the amendments made by
13	sections 2, 3, and 6 of this Act.
14	(2) Considerations.—In conducting the study
15	under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shal
16	consider—
17	(A) the reduction in recidivism and associ
18	ated cost savings related to corrections and
19	public safety;
20	(B) increased economic activity by former
21	offenders, including by conducting an analysis
22	of the tax revenue generated by that activity
23	and

1	(C) the economic impact on the household
2	of former offenders and the children of former
3	offenders.
4	(b) Report.—Not later than 5 years after the date
5	of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall sub-
6	mit to Congress a report on the study conducted under
7	subsection (a).
8	SEC. 5. TANF ASSISTANCE AND SNAP BENEFITS.
9	(a) Repeal of Ban on Assistance.—Section 115
10	of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Rec-
11	onciliation Act of 1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a) is repealed.
12	(b) EFFECT ON STATE ELECTIONS TO OPT OUT OR
13	LIMIT PERIOD OF PROHIBITION.—
14	(1) Definitions.—In this subsection—
15	(A) the term "State" has the meaning
16	given the term in section 115(e) of the Personal
17	Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconcili-
18	ation Act of 1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a(e)) (as in
19	effect on the day before the date of enactment
20	of this Act); and
21	(B) the term "TANF assistance or SNAP
22	benefits" means assistance or benefits referred
23	to in section 115(a) of the Personal Responsi-
24	bility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act

1	of 1996 (as in effect on the day before the date
2	of enactment of this Act).
3	(2) Effect.—A law enacted by a State under
4	the authority under subparagraph (A) or (B) of sub-
5	section (d)(1) of section 115 of the Personal Respon-
6	sibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
7	1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a) (as in effect on the day be-
8	fore the date of enactment of this Act), and any
9	State law or regulation enacted to carry out the re-
10	quirements of such section (as then in effect), that
11	imposes conditions on eligibility for TANF assist-
12	ance or SNAP benefits shall have no force or effect.
13	SEC. 6. STATE INCENTIVES.
13 14	SEC. 6. STATE INCENTIVES. (a) COPS Grants Priority.—Section 1701 of title
14	(a) COPS Grants Priority.—Section 1701 of title
14 15	(a) COPS Grants Priority.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
14 15 16	(a) COPS Grants Priority.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—
14 15 16 17	(a) COPS GRANTS PRIORITY.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended— (1) in subsection (c)—
14 15 16 17	 (a) COPS GRANTS PRIORITY.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended— (1) in subsection (c)— (A) in paragraph (2), by striking "or" at
14 15 16 17 18	(a) COPS GRANTS PRIORITY.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended— (1) in subsection (c)— (A) in paragraph (2), by striking "or" at the end;
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 (a) COPS GRANTS PRIORITY.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended— (1) in subsection (c)— (A) in paragraph (2), by striking "or" at the end; (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 (a) COPS GRANTS PRIORITY.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended— (1) in subsection (c)— (A) in paragraph (2), by striking "or" at the end; (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

"(A) a law relating to the confidentiality, 1 2 sealing, and expungement of juvenile records that is substantially similar to, or more gen-3 4 erous to the former offender than, the amendments made by subsections (b) through (d) of 6 section 3 of the Record Expungement Designed 7 to Enhance Employment Act of 2019; 8 "(B) a law prohibiting juvenile solitary 9 confinement that is substantially similar to, or 10 more restrictive than, the amendment made by 11 subsection (e) of section 3 of the Record 12 Expungement Designed to Enhance Employ-13 ment Act of 2019; 14 "(C) a law relating to the sealing of adult 15 records that is substantially similar to, or more 16 generous to the former offender than, the 17 amendments made by section 2 of the Record 18 Expungement Designed to Enhance Employ-19 ment Act of 2019; "(D) subject to subsection (n)(2), a law 20 21 that establishes that an adult criminal court 22 may not have original jurisdiction over an indi-23 vidual who was less than 18 years of age when

the individual committed an offense;

1	"(E) a law that allows an individual who
2	has successfully sealed or expunged a criminal
3	record to be free from civil and criminal perjury
4	laws; or
5	"(F) a law or policy that ensures to the
6	maximum extent practicable, for juveniles who
7	have been arrested for or convicted of a crimi-
8	nal offense—
9	"(i) equal sentencing guidelines, with-
10	out regard to gender; and
11	"(ii) equal access, without regard to
12	gender, to services, assistance, or benefits
13	provided."; and
14	(2) by adding at the end the following:
15	"(n) Rules for Preferential Consideration of
16	STATES WITH LAWS SIMILAR TO REDEEM ACT.—
17	"(1) Degree of Priority Commensurate
18	WITH DEGREE OF COMPLIANCE.—If the Attorney
19	General, in awarding grants under this part, gives
20	preferential consideration to any application as au-
21	thorized under subsection $(c)(4)$, the Attorney Gen-
22	eral shall base the degree of preferential consider-
23	ation given to an application from an applicant in a
24	particular State on the number of subparagraphs
25	under that subsection that the State has satisfied,

- relative to the number of such subparagraphs that each other State has satisfied.
- 3 "(2) JUVENILE TRANSFER PROVISIONS.—Sub-4 section (c)(4)(D) shall not be construed to preclude 5 from preferential consideration an application from 6 an applicant in a State that—
- 7 "(A) has in effect a law that authorizes the 8 transfer of an individual who is less than 18 9 years of age to adult criminal court if the indi-10 vidual commits a specified offense or an offense 11 that falls under a specified category of offenses; 12 or
- "(B) exercises other case-specific transfermechanisms.".
- 15 (b) Attorney General Guidelines and Tech16 Nical Assistance.—The Attorney General shall issue
 17 guidelines and provide technical assistance to assist States
 18 in complying with the incentive under paragraph (4) of
 19 section 1701(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control
 20 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(c)), as
 21 added by subsection (a).

SEC. 7. GENDER EQUALITY IN FEDERAL JUVENILE DELIN-2 QUENCY PROCEEDINGS. 3 (a) DISPOSITIONS.—Section 5037 of title 18. United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-4 5 lowing: 6 "(f) GENDER EQUALITY.— 7 "(1) Policy of the united states.—It is 8 the policy of the United States that there should be 9 no disparities based on gender in dispositions of ju-10 venile cases. 11 "(2) Directive to sentencing commission 12 AND COURTS.—The United States Sentencing Com-13 mission, in promulgating sentencing guidelines and 14 policy statements applicable to dispositions of dis-15 trict courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles, and 16 the courts, in determining such dispositions, shall 17 take care to avoid and remedy any disparities de-18 scribed in paragraph (1).". 19 (b) Commitments.—Section 5039 of title 18, United

States Code, is amended, in the second paragraph, by adding at the end the following: "The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations that ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, equal access, without regard to gender, to services, assistance, or benefits provided, to juveniles who have been arrested under Federal authority, or com-

1	mitted pursuant to an adjudication under this chapter, for
2	juvenile delinquency.".
3	SEC. 8. ENSURING ACCURACY IN THE FBI BACKGROUND
4	CHECK SYSTEM.
5	(a) In General.—Section 534 of title 28, United
6	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7	lowing:
8	"(g) Ensuring Accuracy in the FBI Back-
9	GROUND CHECK SYSTEM.—
10	"(1) Definitions.—In this subsection—
11	"(A) the term 'applicant' means the indi-
12	vidual to whom a record sought to be exchanged
13	pertains;
14	"(B) the term 'incomplete', with respect to
15	a record, means the record—
16	"(i) indicates that an individual was
17	arrested but does not describe the offense
18	for which the individual was arrested; or
19	"(ii) indicates that an individual was
20	arrested or criminal proceedings were insti-
21	tuted against an individual but does not
22	include the final disposition of the arrest
23	or of the proceedings if a final disposition
24	has been reached:

1	"(C) the term 'record' means a record or
2	other information collected under this section;
3	"(D) the term 'reporting jurisdiction'
4	means any person or entity that provides a
5	record to the Attorney General under this sec-
6	tion; and
7	"(E) the term 'requesting entity'—
8	"(i) means a person or entity that
9	seeks the exchange of a record for civil
10	purposes that include employment, occupa-
11	tional licensing, occupational certification,
12	housing, credit, or any other type of appli-
13	cation; and
14	"(ii) does not include a law enforce-
15	ment or intelligence agency that seeks the
16	exchange of a record for—
17	"(I) investigative purposes; or
18	"(II) purposes relating to law en-
19	forcement employment.
20	"(2) Incomplete or inaccurate records.—
21	The Attorney General shall establish and enforce
22	procedures to ensure the prompt release of accurate
23	records exchanged for civil purposes through the
24	records system created under this section.

1	"(3) REQUIRED PROCEDURES.—The procedures
2	established under paragraph (2) shall include the
3	following:
4	"(A) INACCURATE RECORD OR INFORMA-
5	TION.—If the Attorney General determines that
6	a record is inaccurate, the Attorney General
7	shall, not later than 10 days after the date on
8	which the requesting entity requests the ex-
9	change and before the exchange is made,
10	promptly correct the record, including by mak-
11	ing deletions to the record if appropriate.
12	"(B) Incomplete record.—
13	"(i) In General.—If the Attorney
14	General determines that a record is incom-
15	plete or cannot be verified, the Attorney
16	General—
17	"(I) shall attempt to complete or
18	verify the record; and
19	"(II) if unable to complete or
20	verify the record, may promptly make
21	any changes or deletions to the
22	record.
23	"(ii) Lack of disposition of ar-
24	REST.—For purposes of this subpara-
25	graph, an incomplete record includes a

1	record that indicates there was an arrest
2	and does not include the disposition of the
3	arrest.
4	"(iii) Obtaining disposition of ar-
5	REST.—If the Attorney General determines
6	that a record is an incomplete record de-
7	scribed in clause (ii), the Attorney General
8	shall, not later than 10 days after the date
9	on which the requesting entity requests the
10	exchange and before the exchange is made,
11	obtain the disposition (if any) of the ar-
12	rest.
13	"(C) Notification of reporting juris-
14	DICTION.—The Attorney General shall notify
15	each appropriate reporting jurisdiction of any
16	action taken under subparagraph (A) or (B).
17	"(D) Opportunity to review records
18	BY APPLICANT.—In connection with an ex-
19	change of a record under this section, the At-
20	torney General shall—
21	"(i) obtain the consent of the appli-
22	cant to exchange the record with the re-
23	questing entity;

1	"(ii) at the time of consent, notify the
2	applicant that the applicant can obtain a
3	copy of the record;
4	"(iii) provide to the applicant an op-
5	portunity to—
6	"(I) obtain a copy of the record
7	upon request; and
8	"(II) challenge the accuracy and
9	completeness of the record;
10	"(iv) promptly notify the requesting
11	entity of any such challenge;
12	"(v) not later than 30 days after the
13	date on which the challenge is made, com-
14	plete an investigation of the challenge;
15	"(vi) provide to the applicant the spe-
16	cific findings and results of that investiga-
17	tion;
18	"(vii) promptly make any changes or
19	deletions to the records required as a re-
20	sult of the challenge; and
21	"(viii) report those changes to the re-
22	questing entity.
23	"(E) CERTAIN EXCHANGES PROHIBITED.—
24	An exchange shall not include any record—

1	"(i) about an arrest more than 2
2	years old as of the date of the request for
3	the exchange, that does not also include a
4	disposition (if any) of that arrest;
5	"(ii) relating to an adult or juvenile
6	non-serious offense of the sort described in
7	section 20.32(b) of title 28, Code of Fed-
8	eral Regulations, as in effect on July 1,
9	2009; or
10	"(iii) to the extent the record is not
11	clearly an arrest or a disposition of an ar-
12	rest.
13	"(4) FEES.—The Attorney General may collect
14	a reasonable fee for an exchange of records for civil
15	purposes through the records system created under
16	this section to defray the costs associated with ex-
17	changes for those purposes, including any costs asso-
18	ciated with the investigation of inaccurate or incom-
19	plete records.".
20	(b) REGULATIONS ON REASONABLE PROCEDURES.—
21	Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
22	Act, the Attorney General shall issue regulations to carry
23	out section 534(g) of title 28, United States Code, as
24	added by subsection (a).

1	(c) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date
2	of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall sub-
3	mit to Congress a report on the implementation of sub-
4	section (g) of section 534 of title 28, United States Code
5	as added by subsection (a), that includes—
6	(1) the number of exchanges of records for civil
7	purposes made with entities in each State through
8	the records system created under such section 534
9	(2) any prolonged failure of a reporting juris-
10	diction to comply with a request by the Attorney
11	General for information about dispositions of ar-
12	rests; and
13	(3) the numbers of successful and unsuccessful
14	challenges to the accuracy and completeness of
15	records, organized by State of origination of each
16	record.
17	SEC. 9. REPORT ON STATUTORY AND REGULATORY RE-
18	STRICTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS BASED
19	ON CRIMINAL RECORDS.
20	(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
21	date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in
22	consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Director
23	of the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit to
24	Congress a report on each Federal statute, regulation, or

25 policy that authorizes a restriction on, or disqualification

1	of, an applicant for employment or for a Federal license
2	or permit based on the criminal record of the applicant
3	(b) Identification of Information.—In the re-
4	port submitted under subsection (a), the Attorney Genera
5	shall—
6	(1) identify each occupation, position, license
7	or permit to which a restriction or disqualification
8	described in subsection (a) applies; and
9	(2) for each occupation, position, license, or
10	permit identified under paragraph (1), include—
11	(A) a description of the restriction or dis
12	qualification;
13	(B) the duration of the restriction or dis
14	qualification;
15	(C) an evaluation of the rationale for the
16	restriction or disqualification and its continuing
17	usefulness;
18	(D) the procedures, if any, to appeal
19	waive, or exempt the restriction or disqualifica
20	tion based on a showing of rehabilitation or
21	other relevant evidence;
22	(E) any information available about the
23	numbers of individuals restricted or disqualified
24	on the basis of a criminal record: and

1	(F) the identity of the Federal agency with
2	jurisdiction over the restriction or disqualifica-
3	tion.

 \bigcirc