



Jobs

Justice

A Future

A criminal record should not mean a lifetime sentence to poverty

Too many of our brothers and sisters are trapped in poverty and rejected for jobs, housing, and other opportunities because of their criminal records. **Please support H1908/ S932.**

[H1908 / S932](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S932). An Act providing for certificates of rehabilitation, second chances, increased success, and community prosperity (Rep. Ultrino, Sen. Brownsberger). Link: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S932>

- + Employers and others quickly disqualify applicants with CORI's. The bill adds a new chapter 276C to allow courts to issue rehabilitation certificates to people with convictions, juvenile adjudications, and continuances without finding (CWOFS) to remove most statutory disqualifications for jobs, housing, occupational licenses, or other exclusions imposed by Massachusetts laws or regulations.
- + Waiting periods to seal records take at least 3 to 7 years which is too long to have no income or opportunities for success.
- + Unlike the sealing law which only helps those with Massachusetts records, people with federal or out-of-state cases are also eligible for certificates.
- + People who are incarcerated, on probation, or on parole are also eligible for certificates.
- + Certificates of rehabilitation remove disqualifications caused by a conviction and create a presumption a person is eligible for jobs, housing, and other opportunities as set forth in the certificate. There are some exceptions, for example, for sex offenses requiring registration, driving suspensions such as DUI's, and/or firearms licenses which cannot be included in the certificate.
- + These certificates also expand the current sealing law to allow those with certain "never sealable" convictions such as public justice convictions (giving false name to the police, prison escape, perjury etc.) to apply for sealing. (Police, however, will continue to see any sealed records.)
- + The bill will increase current anti-discrimination protections and regulate occupational licensing even if a person has no certificate. Under the bill, a person cannot be denied a job or occupational license based solely on their conviction unless that conviction actually is related to and affects the person's ability to perform the job or the conviction poses an unreasonable risk to public safety or property. Before rejecting a person due to a conviction, employers must consider factors such as the Commonwealth's policy in favor of promoting jobs for people with CORIs, the type of work, and the individual's past and present circumstances.

+ A dismissal after a continuance without a finding (CWOFF) would no longer be a reason for a job or occupational licensing denial (even without a certificate) which also brings the licensing law in line with c. 276, § 100A, as amended in 2010, to no longer treat CWOFF's as convictions for purposes of criminal record sealing.

For more information, contact Pauline Quirion at pquirion@gbls.org or 617-710-5515 or gcaplitz@cwsne.org

SUPPORTERS OF THIS SECOND CHANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES BILL

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)	Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
Action Inc. (Gloucester)	Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLU)	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless	Mental Health Legal Advisors
Boston SOAR (Street Outreach, Advocacy & Response)	Metro West Legal Services
Boston University Criminal Law Clinic	More than Words
Boston Vet Center	New Beginnings Reentry Services
Casa Esperanza	New England Law-Boston- CORI Initiative
Casa Myrna	Northeastern University School of Law—Criminal Justice Task Force
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice Coalition for Social Justice	Prisoners Legal Services of Massachusetts
Codman Square NDC	Project Place
Committee for Public Counsel (CPCS)	RFK Community Alliance
Community Resources for Justice Inc. (CRJ)	Roxbury Youthworks
Community Servings (Boston)	Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston
Community Work Services	Somerville Homeless Coalition
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing	St. Francis House
DOVE	Strategies for Youth
EMPath (Economic Mobility Pathways)	Strive Boston
EVA Center	Suffolk University Law School—Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Clinics
Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)	Tenants Advocacy Project
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Boston	Union of Minority Neighborhoods
Justice at Work	UMass School of Law—Human Rights at Home Clinic
Justice Bridge Legal Center	Veterans Inc. (Worcester)
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	Veterans Legal Services
Lawyers Clearinghouse	Western New England School of Law — Center for Social Justice
Lawyers for Civil Rights	Women's Lunch Place Worcester State University—Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice