



## What it is:

CLEAN SLATE is **the automatic erasure of criminal records** for certain convictions, after a set period of time, for individuals who remain free of the criminal justice system upon release from custody. There is currently a process to apply for erasure in CT, but the application is burdensome, costly, bureaucratic, and subjective. This process needs to change. **Clean Slate is the solution.**

## Who it impacts:

**Approximately 5,000 Connecticut residents** complete their prison sentences and are released from prison each year. This means that there are *tens of thousands* of CT residents trying to **return to their communities, rebuild their lives, and reunite with their families.** Too often, their criminal record is a barrier to moving forward with their lives.

## Why it matters:

### **Clean Slate is a racial justice issue.**

- In Connecticut, black people are **9.4x** more likely than white people to be incarcerated, and Latinx people are **3.9x** more likely to be incarcerated than white people. The effects of this **systemic racism will persist for decades** to come without Clean Slate.

### **Clean Slate improves public safety.**

- When people's records are erased, they gain **access to jobs, housing, and higher education.** Recidivism rates dramatically decrease as a result. *That makes everyone safer.*

### **Clean Slate boosts the economy.**

- One 2016 study estimates that the collective national impact of the shackles of a criminal record reduces our GDP each year between \$78 billion and \$87 billion. Based on Connecticut's population, this means the loss of between **\$859 million and \$958 million** in economic activity each year in our state.

**Questions?** Contact a CONECT organizer: [kristen.estabrook@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.estabrook@gmail.com) / 207.751.8212.

### **Senate Bill 403 -- Clean Slate bill -- Bullet Point Summary:**

- automatic erasure of misdemeanors 7 years after the date of conviction;
- automatic "provisional erasure" of Class C, D, & E felonies 12 years after the date of conviction;
- "provisional erasure" allows law enforcement only to still see a criminal record;
- if no new crimes are committed or criminal cases opened during 2 years of "provisional erasure," full erasure takes place automatically;
- individuals can petition for erasure sooner if they have shorter sentences (3 years after completion of sentence for misdemeanors and 5 years after completion of sentence for C, D, & E felonies);
- Sex crimes and domestic / family violence crimes excluded;
- Strong anti-discrimination protections included to guard against discrimination against people who may be discovered to have an erased record;
- Juvenile records prior to 2012 "raise the age law" erased automatically back to 1999, prior to 1999 erased by petition;
- Requires annual training for the Board of Pardons and Paroles on the collateral consequences of a criminal record and requires that the Board indicate a specific, substantive reason in writing when denying applications for a pardon.