

# STATE OF NEW YORK

---

7551--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

June 5, 2023

---

Introduced by Sens. MYRIE, BAILEY, BROUK, COMRIE, COONEY, GIANARIS, GONZALEZ, GOUNARDES, JACKSON, KAVANAGH, MAY, RAMOS, RIVERA, RYAN, SEPULVEDA, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law, the correction law, the judiciary law and the civil rights law, in relation to automatic sealing of certain convictions

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. Almost fifty years ago, New York  
2 enacted anti-discrimination protections for individuals with a prior  
3 criminal conviction. In his approval message, Governor Carey noted that  
4 the expense and time involved in prosecuting and incarcerating an indi-  
5 vidual is largely wasted "if upon the individual's return to society his  
6 willingness to assume a law abiding and productive role is frustrated by  
7 senseless discrimination" and further noted that providing a formerly  
8 incarcerated individual "a fair opportunity for a job is a matter of  
9 basic human fairness as well as one of the surest ways to reduce crime."  
10 He also noted that the legislation in no way required the hiring of  
11 someone with a criminal record but provided reasonable standards to be  
12 applied when considering the employment of such an individual, and that  
13 merely having a criminal record could not be the sole basis for denying  
14 employment. While New York has made great strides in fighting discrimi-  
15 nation - on the basis of many attributes, experiences, and circumstances  
16 of New Yorkers - discrimination on the basis of past convictions still  
17 persists.  
18 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to further curb this  
19 discrimination by sealing from public access the conviction records of  
20 individuals for certain state convictions only after an individual has

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11746-03-3

1 satisfied their sentence and the required period of time has passed,  
2 within which the individual has remained a law abiding citizen while  
3 ensuring that this otherwise sealed conviction information will remain  
4 accessible for law enforcement and other relevant and necessary  
5 purposes. These relevant and necessary purposes include but are not  
6 limited to determining suitability for licensing, employment and similar  
7 activities where federal or state law requires a criminal background  
8 check be performed prior to granting licenses to or employing individ-  
9 uals in certain jobs, such as employment with children, elderly popu-  
10 lations, or other vulnerable populations, as well as where federal or  
11 state law authorizes a criminal background check to be performed prior  
12 to the same type of employment or similar activity.

13 It is further the intent of the legislature that this legislation  
14 shall not have any impact on, nor will it change the access to, informa-  
15 tion regarding out of state or federal conviction information for law  
16 enforcement purposes or any other person or entity, including prospec-  
17 tive employers, accessing an individual's criminal history through crim-  
18 inal background checks or through publicly accessible records.

19 § 2. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section  
20 160.57 to read as follows:

21 § 160.57 Automatic sealing of convictions.

22 1. Convictions for certain traffic infractions or a crime defined in  
23 the laws of this state shall be sealed in accordance with this section  
24 as follows:

25 (a) Convictions for subdivision one of section eleven hundred ninety-  
26 two of the vehicle and traffic law shall be sealed after three years.

27 (b) Criminal convictions shall be sealed upon satisfaction of the  
28 following conditions:

29 (i) for a misdemeanor conviction, at least three years have passed  
30 from the defendant's release from incarceration or the imposition of  
31 sentence if there was no sentence of incarceration. If the defendant is  
32 subsequently convicted of a crime before a prior conviction is sealed  
33 pursuant to this section, the calculation of time for such prior  
34 conviction shall start upon the same date as the time calculation starts  
35 for the subsequent criminal conviction;

36 (ii) for a felony conviction, at least eight years have passed from  
37 the date the defendant was last released from incarceration for the  
38 sentence of the conviction eligible for sealing or from the imposition  
39 of sentence if there was no sentence of incarceration. A defendant's  
40 detention for an alleged violation of parole or post-release supervision  
41 shall not interfere with the time calculation prescribed herein unless  
42 and until supervision is revoked resulting in the defendant's reincar-  
43 ceration. If the defendant is subsequently convicted of a crime before  
44 a prior conviction is sealed pursuant to this section, the calculation  
45 of time for such prior conviction shall start upon the same date as the  
46 time calculation starts for the subsequent criminal conviction;

47 (iii) the defendant does not have a subsequent criminal charge pending  
48 in this state;

49 (iv) the defendant is not currently under the supervision of any  
50 probation or parole department for the conviction eligible for sealing;

51 (v) the conviction is not for an offense defined as a sex offense or  
52 sexually violent offense under section one hundred sixty-eight-a of the  
53 correction law;

54 (vi) the conviction is not for a class A felony offense defined in the  
55 penal law, other than class A felony offenses defined in article two  
56 hundred twenty of the penal law;

1 (vii) the defendant is a natural person;

2 (viii) the defendant does not have a subsequent felony charge pending  
3 in another jurisdiction that is not a felony charge related to reproduc-  
4 tive or gender affirming care or the possession of cannabis which would  
5 not constitute a felony in New York. This subparagraph shall apply if  
6 and when appropriate federal authorities grant access to records neces-  
7 sary to query to effectuate the purposes of this subparagraph in an  
8 automated manner; and

9 (ix) the defendant does not have a subsequent felony conviction in  
10 another jurisdiction in the preceding eight years that is not a felony  
11 conviction related to reproductive or gender affirming care or the  
12 possession of cannabis which would not constitute a felony in New York.  
13 This subparagraph shall apply if and when appropriate federal authori-  
14 ties grant access to records necessary to query to effectuate the  
15 purposes of this subparagraph in an automated manner.

16 (c) If, after the applicable period of time for the sealing of a  
17 conviction has been satisfied, the conviction remains ineligible for  
18 sealing pursuant to subparagraphs (iii), (iv), (viii) or (ix) of para-  
19 graph (b) of this subdivision, the office of court administration shall  
20 subsequently check for eligibility no less than quarterly and upon  
21 subsequent checks, or the receipt of a form in accordance with paragraph  
22 (dd) of subdivision two of section two hundred twelve of the judiciary  
23 law, the conviction shall be sealed if all other conditions for sealing  
24 under this section are satisfied.

25 (d) In accordance with all other applicable laws, rules, and regu-  
26 lations regarding the scope, access, use, disclosure, confidentiality  
27 and retention of criminal history information, records of convictions  
28 sealed pursuant to this section including photographs, photographic  
29 plates or proofs, palmprints, fingerprints or retina scans shall not be  
30 accessed by or made available to any person or public or private agency,  
31 except for:

32 (i) the defendant and such defendant's counsel;

33 (ii) any court, defense counsel or prosecutor for the purposes of a  
34 pending criminal proceeding or proceedings brought in a criminal court  
35 pursuant to article six-C of the correction law;

36 (iii) qualified agencies, as defined in subdivision nine of section  
37 eight hundred thirty-five of the executive law, federal and state law  
38 enforcement agencies, and interstate and international authorities as  
39 defined in subdivision three of section two of the public authorities  
40 law, when acting within the scope of their law enforcement duties;

41 (iv) the court, prosecutor, and defense counsel if the defendant  
42 becomes a witness in a criminal proceeding;

43 (v) the court and parties if the defendant becomes a witness or party  
44 in a civil proceeding;

45 (vi) when an individual is a defendant in a criminal proceeding or  
46 proceedings brought in a criminal court pursuant to article six-C of the  
47 correction law and the sealed records of conviction of a third party are  
48 integral to their defense. In such instances, use of sealed records of  
49 conviction shall be requested upon ex parte motion in any superior  
50 court, or in any district court, city court or the criminal court of the  
51 city of New York provided that such court is where the action is pend-  
52 ing. The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court  
53 that the records will be used for the purpose of this subparagraph;

54 (vii) individuals or entities that are required by a local law in  
55 effect one year prior to the chapter of the laws of two thousand twen-  
56 ty-three that added this section, a state law, or a federal law or regu-

1 lation to request and receive a fingerprint-based check of criminal  
2 history information. Nothing herein shall prohibit the commissioner of  
3 education or the office of school personnel review and accountability  
4 from receiving or using convictions sealed pursuant to this section for  
5 purposes of subdivisions seven, seven-a and seven-b of section three  
6 hundred five of the education law;

7 (viii) individuals or entities that are authorized by a local law in  
8 effect one year prior to the chapter of the laws of two thousand twen-  
9 ty-three that added this section, a state law, or a federal law or regu-  
10 lation to request and receive a fingerprint-based check of criminal  
11 history information in relation to the individual's fitness to have  
12 responsibility for the safety and well-being of children or adolescents,  
13 elderly individuals, individuals with disabilities, or otherwise vulner-  
14 able populations. The division of criminal justice services shall main-  
15 tain an up to date list of citations of the local, state, and federal  
16 statutes or federal regulations authorizing the access described herein;

17 (ix) any prospective employer of a police officer or peace officer as  
18 those terms are defined in subdivisions thirty-three and thirty-four of  
19 section 1.20 of this chapter, in relation to an application for employ-  
20 ment as a police officer or peace officer, provided, however, that every  
21 person who is an applicant shall be furnished with a copy of all records  
22 obtained under this paragraph and afforded an opportunity to make an  
23 explanation thereto;

24 (x) any federal, state or local officer or agency with responsibility  
25 for the issuance of licenses to possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun or  
26 with responsibility for conducting background checks before transfer or  
27 sale of a firearm or explosive, when the officer or agency is acting  
28 pursuant to such responsibility. This includes the criminal justice  
29 information services division of the federal bureau of investigation,  
30 for the purposes of responding to queries to the national instant back-  
31 ground check system regarding attempts to purchase or otherwise take  
32 possession of firearms, rifles or shotguns, as defined in 18 U.S.C. §  
33 921 (A) (3);

34 (xi) for the purposes of civilian investigation or evaluation of a  
35 civilian complaint or civil action concerning law enforcement or prose-  
36 cution actions, upon ex parte motion in any superior court, or in any  
37 district court, city court or the criminal court of the city of New York  
38 provided that such court sealed the record; the applicant must demon-  
39 strate to the satisfaction of the court that the records will be used  
40 for the purposes of this subparagraph;

41 (xii) for information provided to an individual or entity pursuant to  
42 paragraph (e) of subdivision four of section eight hundred thirty-seven  
43 of the executive law or for bona fide research purposes provided all  
44 identifying information is removed;

45 (xiii) when an individual seeks to avail themselves of a public  
46 program or benefit, including but not limited to an immigration benefit,  
47 for which the sealed records of conviction of a third party are other-  
48 wise authorized by law or legal process to be disclosed in furtherance  
49 of their application for such program or benefit. In such instances, the  
50 individual or their attorney shall request the use of sealed records  
51 pursuant to a form as prescribed by the chief administrator of the  
52 courts pursuant to paragraph (ee) of subdivision two of section two  
53 hundred twelve of the judiciary law;

54 (xiv) for the purpose of collection of restitution, reparation, fines,  
55 surcharges, or fees imposed. In such instances, use of sealed records  
56 shall be requested upon ex parte motion in any superior court, or in any

1 district court, city court, town court, village court, or criminal court  
2 of the city of New York provided that such court is where the action is  
3 pending. The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court  
4 that the records will be used for the purpose of this subparagraph;

5 (xv) transportation network companies that are required or authorized  
6 by state law to request criminal history information pursuant to section  
7 sixteen hundred ninety-nine of the vehicle and traffic law;

8 (xvi) the state education department for the purposes of investigating  
9 professional misconduct as defined in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a)  
10 of subdivision five of section sixty-five hundred nine of the education  
11 law, consideration of restoration of a professional license pursuant to  
12 section sixty-five hundred eleven of the education law, or determi-  
13 nations for issuing a license to practice a profession or issuing  
14 certificates and privileges for which prior licensure is required, for  
15 the professions under articles one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thir-  
16 ty-one-b, one hundred thirty-two, one hundred thirty-three, one hundred  
17 thirty-four, one hundred thirty-five, one hundred thirty-six, one  
18 hundred thirty-seven, one hundred thirty-nine, one hundred forty, one  
19 hundred forty-one, one hundred forty-three, one hundred forty-four, one  
20 hundred forty-five, one hundred forty-seven, one hundred forty-nine, one  
21 hundred fifty-three, one hundred fifty-four, one hundred fifty-five, one  
22 hundred fifty-six, one hundred fifty-seven, one hundred fifty-nine, one  
23 hundred sixty, one hundred sixty-two, one hundred sixty-three, one  
24 hundred sixty-four, and one hundred sixty-seven as such professions are  
25 defined in title eight of the education law, provided that the state  
26 education department certifies to the division of criminal justice  
27 services that it is investigating an individual licensed to practice a  
28 profession pursuant to article one hundred thirty of the education law  
29 for professional misconduct as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision  
30 five of section sixty-five hundred nine of the education law, consider-  
31 ing restoration of a professional license pursuant to section sixty-five  
32 hundred eleven of the education law, or making a determination for issu-  
33 ing a license to practice a profession or issuing certificates and priv-  
34 ileges for which prior licensure is required as appropriate. Provided,  
35 further, that the board of regents may consider any prior conviction  
36 that formed the basis of a determination of the board of regents in a  
37 disciplinary proceeding pursuant to section sixty-five hundred ten of  
38 the education law and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant  
39 thereto in an application for reconsideration, even if such conviction  
40 later becomes sealed pursuant to this section; and

41 (xvii) the office of mental health and the office for people with  
42 developmental disabilities, where such agencies are statutorily author-  
43 ized to receive such information, provided further, that such informa-  
44 tion may also be made available for case review under section 10.05 of  
45 the mental hygiene law, as well as to providers licensed, funded, desig-  
46 nated, certified or otherwise authorized by the office of mental health  
47 or the office for people with developmental disabilities, where such  
48 information is included in the clinical record of any person under the  
49 care of or receiving services from such provider or program.

50 (e) Where the sealing required by this section has not taken place,  
51 including where supporting court records cannot be located or have been  
52 destroyed, and a defendant or their attorney submits a valid form in  
53 accordance with paragraph (dd) of subdivision two of section two hundred  
54 twelve of the judiciary law of such fact to the office of court admin-  
55 istration, such conviction shall be sealed as set forth in this subdivi-  
56 sion within thirty days of the receipt of such form.

1 (f) The department of corrections and community supervision, in coor-  
2 dination with the division of criminal justice services, shall provide  
3 the office of court administration with the data necessary to determine  
4 appropriate records to be sealed pursuant to this section, including but  
5 not limited to (i) the date or dates of release from state incarceration  
6 of individuals who have a sentence of incarceration for a felony  
7 conviction, and (ii) the date or dates of initial parole or post-release  
8 supervision and corresponding date or dates of discharge, as applicable.

9 (g) The chief administrative officer of each local correctional facil-  
10 ity shall provide the office of court administration with the data  
11 necessary to determine appropriate records to be sealed pursuant to this  
12 section, including but not limited to the date or dates of release of  
13 individuals who have satisfied a definite sentence of imprisonment.

14 2. Upon the sealing of a conviction pursuant to this section the  
15 office of court administration shall immediately notify the division of  
16 criminal justice services, the court of conviction, county clerks and  
17 the heads of all appropriate police and sheriff departments, prosecu-  
18 tors' offices and law enforcement agencies that the conviction is  
19 sealed. Upon receipt of such notification, records of or relating to  
20 such conviction shall be immediately sealed as follows:

21 (a) Every photograph of the defendant and photographic plates or  
22 proof, and all palmprints, fingerprints and retina scans taken or made  
23 of the defendant in regard to the sealed conviction, and all duplicates,  
24 reproductions, and copies thereof, except a digital fingerprint that is  
25 on file with the division of criminal justice services for a conviction  
26 that has not been sealed pursuant to this section, shall be marked as  
27 sealed by any entity notified under this subdivision having any such  
28 photograph, photographic plate or proof, palmprint, fingerprints or  
29 retina scan in its possession or under its control by conspicuously  
30 indicating on the face of the record or at the beginning of the digi-  
31 tized file of the record that the record has been designated as sealed.

32 (b) Every official record and paper and duplicates and copies thereof,  
33 including, but not limited to, judgments and orders of a court but not  
34 including published court decisions or opinions or records and briefs on  
35 appeal, relating to the sealed conviction, on file with the entity noti-  
36 fied under this subdivision shall be marked as sealed by conspicuously  
37 indicating on the face of the record or at the beginning of the digi-  
38 tized file of the record that the record has been designated as sealed.

39 (c) Entities subject to the requirements of this subdivision shall not  
40 use or access such sealed information unless otherwise authorized pursu-  
41 ant to this section or any other section of law.

42 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with the  
43 applicable laws, rules and regulations requiring the division of crimi-  
44 nal justice services to administer and maintain criminal history records  
45 as set forth in article thirty-five of the executive law.

46 3. (a) Nothing in this section requires the sealing or destruction of  
47 DNA information maintained in the New York state DNA database, in  
48 accordance with article forty-nine-B of the executive law, of an indi-  
49 vidual whose conviction is sealed under this section.

50 (b) Nothing in this section requires the sealing or destruction of  
51 records maintained by the department of motor vehicles, and nothing in  
52 this section shall be construed to contravene the vehicle and traffic  
53 law, the federal driver's privacy protection act (18 U.S.C 2721 et.  
54 seq.), the REAL ID Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-13; 49 U.S.C. 30301  
55 note), section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention  
56 Act of 1986 (49 U.S.C. 31311), the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act

1 of 1986 (Public Law 99-570; 49 U.S.C. 313), the Motor Carrier Safety  
2 Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-159), or regulations promulgated  
3 pursuant to any such chapter or act.

4 (c) The division of criminal justice services is authorized to  
5 disclose a conviction that is sealed pursuant to this section to enti-  
6 ties that are required by federal law, or by rules and regulations  
7 promulgated by a self-regulatory organization created under federal law,  
8 to consider sealed convictions. Such entities must certify to the divi-  
9 sion that they are required by federal law, or by rules and regulations  
10 promulgated by a self-regulatory organization that has been created  
11 under federal law, to make an inquiry about or consider records sealed  
12 pursuant to this section for purposes of employment, licensing, or  
13 clearance. To the extent permitted by federal law, a record sealed  
14 pursuant to this section may not be considered a conviction that would  
15 prohibit the employment, licensing or clearance of the defendant.

16 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit entities required by feder-  
17 al law to consider sealed convictions, or by rules and regulations  
18 promulgated by a self-regulatory organization that has been created  
19 under federal law, from making an inquiry about or considering an appli-  
20 cant's criminal history for purposes of employment, licensing, or clear-  
21 ance from inquiring into convictions sealed pursuant to this section.

22 (e) In any civil action, an official record of a conviction that has  
23 been sealed pursuant to this section may not be introduced as evidence  
24 of negligence against a person or entity that provided employment,  
25 contract labor or services, volunteer work, licensing, tenancy, a home  
26 purchase, a mortgage, an education, a loan, or insurance if such record  
27 was sealed and was not provided to the person or entity by or on behalf  
28 of a governmental entity in accordance with this section in response to  
29 such person's or entity's authorized and timely request for conviction  
30 history information.

31 (f) A person or entity described in this subdivision, acting reason-  
32 ably and in good faith, may not have a duty to investigate the fact of a  
33 prior conviction that has been sealed pursuant to this section.

34 4. No defendant shall be required or permitted to waive eligibility  
35 for sealing pursuant to this section as part of a plea of guilty,  
36 sentence or any agreement related to a conviction for a violation of the  
37 laws of this state. Any such waiver is void and unenforceable.

38 5. Sealing as set forth in subdivision two of this section is without  
39 prejudice to a defendant or their attorney seeking further relief pursu-  
40 ant to article four hundred forty of this chapter. Nothing in this  
41 section is intended or shall be interpreted to diminish or abrogate any  
42 rights or remedies otherwise available to the defendant.

43 6. The office of court administration shall make diligent efforts to  
44 promptly seal all conviction records eligible for sealing under this  
45 section where such convictions were entered on or before the effective  
46 date of this section and, in any event, shall ensure sealing of such  
47 convictions is complete no later than three years after such effective  
48 date.

49 7. A conviction which is sealed pursuant to this section is included  
50 within the definition of a conviction for the purposes of any criminal  
51 proceeding in which the fact of a prior conviction would enhance a  
52 penalty or is an element of the offense charged.

53 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit sealing of a  
54 conviction before the expiration or termination of a sentence of incar-  
55 ceration, parole, probation, or post-release supervision for such  
56 conviction.

1 9. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect or invalidate  
2 any active order of protection issued in relation to a conviction sealed  
3 under this section.

4 10. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or authorize  
5 the discharge of the requirement to pay any restitution, reparation,  
6 finances, surcharges, or fees imposed for a conviction sealed under this  
7 section or the sealing of a criminal or civil proceeding for the  
8 collection of any such amount due, unless such proceeding is otherwise  
9 eligible for sealing under this section or any other provision of law.

10 § 3. Section 845-d of the executive law is amended by adding two new  
11 subdivisions 4 and 5 to read as follows:

12 4. Nothing in this section shall authorize the division to provide  
13 criminal history information that is sealed pursuant to section 160.57  
14 of the criminal procedure law to an entity other than those authorized  
15 by such section to receive such information.

16 5. Except as otherwise required by law, every entity that receives  
17 criminal history information for civil purposes shall provide or ensure  
18 the provision of a copy of such criminal history information to every  
19 individual for whom such information is received with a copy of arti-  
20 cle twenty-three-A of the correction law, and that such individual be  
21 informed of their right to seek correction of any incorrect informa-  
22 tion contained in such information pursuant to the regulations and  
23 procedures established by the division of criminal justice services.

24 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 212 of the judiciary law is amended by  
25 adding two new paragraphs (dd) and (ee) to read as follows:

26 (dd) Promulgate a standardized form and process for individuals to  
27 notify the office of court administration of convictions subject to  
28 sealing under section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, but for  
29 which the office has not sealed or taken the requisite action for  
30 related records.

31 (ee) Promulgate a standardized form and process for individuals  
32 authorized to request sealed records pursuant to subparagraph (xiii) of  
33 paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 160.57 of the criminal  
34 procedure law.

35 § 5. Subdivision 16 of section 296 of the executive law, as amended by  
36 section 2 of subpart 0 of part II of chapter 55 of the laws of 2019, is  
37 amended to read as follows:

38 16. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice, unless specif-  
39 ically required or permitted by statute, for any person, agency, bureau,  
40 corporation or association, including the state and any political subdivi-  
41 sion thereof, to make any inquiry about, whether in any form of appli-  
42 cation or otherwise, or to act upon adversely to the individual  
43 involved, any arrest or criminal accusation of such individual not then  
44 pending against that individual which was followed by a termination of  
45 that criminal action or proceeding in favor of such individual, as  
46 defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of the criminal procedure  
47 law, or by an order adjourning the criminal action in contemplation of  
48 dismissal, pursuant to section 170.55, 170.56, 210.46, 210.47, or 215.10  
49 of the criminal procedure law, or by a youthful offender adjudication,  
50 as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal proce-  
51 dure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to section  
52 160.55 of the criminal procedure law or by a conviction which is sealed  
53 pursuant to section 160.59 or 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, or  
54 by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the crimi-  
55 nal procedure law, except where such conviction record is accessed  
56 pursuant to subparagraph (vii), (viii), or (xvi) of paragraph (d) of



1 subdivision one of section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, in  
2 connection with the licensing, housing, employment, including volunteer  
3 positions, or providing of credit or insurance to such individual;  
4 provided, further, that no person shall be required to divulge informa-  
5 tion pertaining to any arrest or criminal accusation of such individual  
6 not then pending against that individual which was followed by a termi-  
7 nation of that criminal action or proceeding in favor of such individ-  
8 ual, as defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of the criminal  
9 procedure law, or by an order adjourning the criminal action in contem-  
10 plation of dismissal, pursuant to section 170.55 or 170.56, 210.46,  
11 210.47 or 215.10 of the criminal procedure law, or by a youthful offen-  
12 der adjudication, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the  
13 criminal procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursu-  
14 ant to section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction  
15 which is sealed pursuant to section 160.58 or 160.59 of the criminal  
16 procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section  
17 160.57 of the criminal procedure law, except where such conviction  
18 record is accessed pursuant to subparagraph (vii), (viii), or (xvi) of  
19 paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 160.57 of the criminal  
20 procedure law. An individual required or requested to provide informa-  
21 tion in violation of this subdivision may respond as if the arrest,  
22 criminal accusation, or disposition of such arrest or criminal accusa-  
23 tion did not occur. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply  
24 to the licensing activities of governmental bodies in relation to the  
25 regulation of guns, firearms and other deadly weapons or in relation to  
26 an application for employment as a police officer or peace officer as  
27 those terms are defined in subdivisions thirty-three and thirty-four of  
28 section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law; provided further that the  
29 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to an application for  
30 employment or membership in any law enforcement agency with respect to  
31 any arrest or criminal accusation which was followed by a youthful  
32 offender adjudication, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35  
33 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed  
34 pursuant to section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a  
35 conviction which is sealed pursuant to section 160.58 or 160.59 of the  
36 criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to  
37 section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law. For purposes of this  
38 subdivision, an action which has been adjourned in contemplation of  
39 dismissal, pursuant to section 170.55 or 170.56, 210.46, 210.47 or  
40 215.10 of the criminal procedure law, shall not be considered a pending  
41 action, unless the order to adjourn in contemplation of dismissal is  
42 revoked and the case is restored to the calendar for further prose-  
43 cution.

44 § 6. Section 9 of the correction law, as added by section 2 of part 00  
45 of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, the section heading as amended by  
46 chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

47 § 9. Access to information of incarcerated individuals via the inter-  
48 net. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any informa-  
49 tion relating to the conviction of a person[, except for a person  
50 convicted of an offense that would make such person ineligible for merit  
51 time under section eight hundred three of this chapter or an offense for  
52 which registration as a sex offender is required as set forth in subdi-  
53 vision two or three of section one hundred sixty-eight-a of this chap-  
54 ter,] that is posted on a website maintained by or for the department,  
55 under article six of the public officers law, may be posted on such  
56 website for a period not to exceed [five] three years after the expira-

1 tion of such person's sentence of imprisonment and at the conclusion of  
2 any period of parole or post-release supervision[; provided, however,  
3 that in the case of a person who has been committed to the department on  
4 more than one occasion, the department may post conviction information  
5 relating to any prior commitment on such website for a period not to  
6 exceed five years after the expiration of such person's sentence of  
7 imprisonment and any period of parole or post-release supervision aris-  
8 ing from the most recent commitment to the department].

9 § 7. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 50-g to  
10 read as follows:

11 § 50-g. Disclosure of convictions sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of  
12 the criminal procedure law. 1. Any person who has had a conviction  
13 sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the criminal procedure law may  
14 bring a cause of action for damages against a party who, without consent  
15 of such person, discloses such sealed conviction where: (a) the respond-  
16 ent owed such person a duty of care pursuant to such section; (b) the  
17 respondent knowingly and willfully breached such duty; (c) the disclo-  
18 sure caused injury to such person; and (d) respondent's breach of that  
19 duty was a substantial factor in the events that caused the injury  
20 suffered by such person. The provisions of this section are in addition  
21 to, but shall not supersede, any other rights or remedies available in  
22 law or equity.

23 2. For purposes of this section, a party owes a duty of care to a  
24 person who has had a conviction sealed pursuant to section 160.57 of the  
25 criminal procedure law when the party is under an obligation pursuant to  
26 subdivision two of such section to seal information, records, documents  
27 or papers related to such conviction, or when the party obtains access  
28 to records of such conviction for a specified purpose pursuant to para-  
29 graph (d) of subdivision one, or subdivision three of such section.

30 § 8. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 837-n of the executive  
31 law, as added by chapter 3 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 (a) "Caregiver" shall mean a person employed to provide [fifteen or  
34 more hours of] care [per week] to a child or children, or an elderly or  
35 vulnerable adult in the home of such a child [or], children, or elderly  
36 or vulnerable adult.

37 § 9. Severability. If any provision of this act or the application  
38 thereof to any person, corporation or circumstances is held invalid,  
39 such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the  
40 act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or applica-  
41 tion, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be  
42 severable.

43 § 10. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a  
44 law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of  
45 any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on  
46 its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before  
47 such date.