§§5-8 -C.2C:52-5.1 to 2C:52-5.4 §11 -C.2C:52-10.1 §17 - Approp. §18 - Note

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 269, approved December 18, 2019 Senate, No. 4154 (First Reprint)

AN ACT concerning expungement eligibility and procedures, 1 2 amending and supplementing various parts of the statutory law 3 and making an appropriation. 4 5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 6 of New Jersey: 7 8 1. N.J.S.2C:52-1 is amended to read as follows: 9 2C:52-1. Definition of Expungement. a. Except as otherwise 10 provided in this chapter, expungement shall mean the extraction, 11 sealing, [and] impounding, or isolation of all records on file within 12 any court, detention or correctional facility, law enforcement or 13 criminal justice agency concerning a person's detection, 14 apprehension, arrest, detention, trial or disposition of an offense within the criminal justice system. 15 b. Expunged records shall include complaints, warrants, 16 17 commitments, processing records, arrests, fingerprints, photographs, index cards, "rap sheets" and judicial docket records. 18 19 (cf: N.J.S.2C:52-1) 20 21 2. N.J.S.2C:52-2 is amended to read as follows: 22 2C:52-2. Indictable Offenses. 23 a. In all cases, except as herein provided, a person may present 24 an expungement application to the Superior Court pursuant to this 25 section if: 26 the person has been convicted of one crime under the laws of this 27 State, and does not otherwise have any [prior or] subsequent conviction for another crime, whether within this State or any other 28 29 jurisdiction. ¹[A] Subject to the provision of subsection e. of 30 N.J.S.2C:52-14 requiring denial of an expungement petition when a person has had a previous criminal conviction expunged, a¹ prior 31 32 conviction for another crime shall not bar presenting an application 33 seeking expungement relief for the criminal conviction that is the 34 subject of the application; or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in **bold-faced brackets** [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted December 16, 2019.

1 the person has been convicted of one crime and **[**less than four**]** 2 no more than three disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons 3 offenses under the laws of this State, and does not otherwise have 4 any [prior or] subsequent conviction for another crime, or any 5 [prior or] subsequent conviction for another disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offense such that the total number of 6 7 convictions for disorderly persons and petty disorderly persons 8 offenses would exceed three, whether any such crime or offense 9 conviction was within this State or any other jurisdiction. ¹[A] 10 Subject to the provision of subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 11 requiring denial of an expungement petition when a person has had <u>a previous criminal conviction expunged, a¹ prior conviction for</u> 12 13 another crime, disorderly persons offense, or petty disorderly 14 persons offense shall not bar presenting an application seeking expungement relief for the one criminal conviction and no more 15 16 than three convictions for disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses that are the subject of the application; or 17

18 the person has been convicted of multiple crimes or a 19 combination of one or more crimes and one or more disorderly 20 persons or petty disorderly persons offenses under the laws of this State, all of which are listed in a single judgment of conviction, and 21 22 does not otherwise have any [prior or] subsequent conviction for 23 another crime or offense in addition to those convictions included in 24 the expungement application, whether any such conviction was within this State or any other jurisdiction. ¹[A] Subject to the 25 26 provision of subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 requiring denial of an 27 expungement petition when a person has had a previous criminal conviction expunged, a¹ prior conviction for another crime, 28 29 disorderly persons offense, or petty disorderly persons offense that 30 is not listed in a single judgement of conviction shall not bar 31 presenting an application seeking expungement relief for the 32 convictions listed in a single judgment of conviction that are the 33 subject of the application; or

the person has been convicted of multiple crimes or a 34 35 combination of one or more crimes and one or more disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses under the laws of this 36 37 State, which crimes or combination of crimes and offenses were 38 interdependent or closely related in circumstances and were 39 committed as part of a sequence of events that took place within a 40 comparatively short period of time, regardless of the date of 41 conviction or sentencing for each individual crime or offense, and 42 the person does not otherwise have any [prior or] subsequent 43 conviction for another crime or offense in addition to those 44 convictions included in the expungement application, whether any 45 such conviction was within this State or any other jurisdiction. ¹[A] Subject to the provision of subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 46 47 requiring denial of an expungement petition when a person has had

a previous criminal conviction expunged, a¹ prior conviction for 1 2 another crime, disorderly persons offense, or petty disorderly 3 persons offense that was not interdependent or closely related in 4 circumstances and was not committed within a comparatively short 5 period of time as described above shall not bar presenting an 6 application seeking expungement relief for the convictions of 7 crimes or crimes and offenses that were interdependent or closely 8 related and committed within a comparatively short period of time, 9 and that are the subject of the application. 10 For purposes of determining eligibility to present an 11 expungement application to the Superior Court pursuant to this 12 section, a conviction for unlawful distribution of, or possessing or 13 having under control with intent to distribute, marijuana or hashish 14 in violation of paragraph (11) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:35-5, or 15 a lesser amount of marijuana or hashish in violation of paragraph 16 (12) of subsection b. of that section, or a violation of either of those 17 paragraphs and a violation of subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.1987, 18 c.101 (C.2C:35-7) or subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.1997, c.327 19 (C.2C:35-7.1), for distributing, or possessing or having under 20 control with intent to distribute, on or within 1,000 feet of any 21 school property, or on or within 500 feet of the real property 22 comprising a public housing facility, public park, or public 23 building, or for obtaining or possessing marijuana or hashish in 24 violation of paragraph (3) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:35-10, or for 25 an equivalent crime in another jurisdiction, regardless of when the 26 conviction occurred, shall not be considered a conviction of a crime 27 within this State or any other jurisdiction but shall instead be 28 considered a conviction of a disorderly ¹[person] persons¹ offense 29 within this State or an equivalent category of offense within the 30 other jurisdiction, and a conviction for obtaining, possessing, using, 31 being under the influence of, or failing to make lawful disposition 32 of marijuana or hashish in violation of paragraph (4) of subsection 33 a., or subsection b., or subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:35-10, or a 34 violation involving marijuana or hashish as described herein and 35 using or possessing with intent to use drug paraphernalia with that marijuana or hashish in violation of N.J.S.2C:36-2, or for an 36 37 equivalent crime or offense in another jurisdiction, regardless of 38 when the conviction occurred, shall not be considered a conviction 39 within this State or any other jurisdiction. 40 The person, if eligible, may present the expungement application 41 after the expiration of a period of [six] five years from the date of 42 his most recent conviction, payment of [fine] any court-ordered 43 satisfactory completion of probation or financial assessment, 44 parole, or release from incarceration, whichever is later. The term 45 ["fine"] "court-ordered financial assessment" as used herein and throughout this section means and includes any fine, fee, penalty, 46

47 restitution, and other [court-ordered] form of financial assessment

1 imposed by the court as part of the sentence for the conviction 1 orconvictions that are the subject of the application¹, for which 2 payment of restitution takes precedence in accordance with chapter 3 4 46 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes. The person shall submit 5 the expungement application to the Superior Court in the county in which the most recent conviction for [the] a crime was adjudged, 6 7 [which contains a separate,] which includes a duly verified petition 8 as provided in N.J.S.2C:52-7 [for each conviction sought to be 9 expunged, praying that the conviction, or convictions if applicable, 10 and all records and information pertaining thereto be expunged. The 11 petition [for each conviction] appended to an application shall 12 comply with the requirements set forth in N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq.

13 Notwithstanding the provisions concerning the [six-year] five-14 <u>year</u> time requirement, if, at the time of application, a [fine which is 15 currently] <u>court-ordered financial assessment</u> subject to collection 16 under the comprehensive enforcement program established pursuant 17 to P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) is not yet satisfied due to reasons 18 other than willful noncompliance, but the time requirement of [six] 19 five years is otherwise satisfied, the person may submit the 20 expungement application and the court may grant an expungement; 21 provided, however, that if expungement is granted [under this 22 paragraph,] the court shall [provide for the continued collection of 23 any outstanding amount owed that is necessary to satisfy the fine or 24 the entry of <u>enter a civil judgment for the unpaid portion of the</u> 25 court-ordered financial assessment in the name of the Treasurer, 26 State of New Jersey and transfer collections and disbursement 27 responsibility to the State Treasurer for the outstanding amount in 28 accordance with section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52-23.1). The 29 Treasurer may specify, and the Administrative Office of the Courts 30 shall collaborate with, the technical and informational standards 31 required to effectuate the transfer of the collection and 32 disbursement responsibilities. Notwithstanding any provision in this 33 law or any other law to the contrary, the court shall have sole 34 discretion to amend the judgment.

35 Additionally, an application may be filed and presented, and the 36 court may grant an expungement pursuant to this section, although 37 less than [six] five years have expired in accordance with the time 38 requirements when the court finds:

39 (1) the [fine] <u>court-ordered financial assessment</u> is satisfied but 40 less than [six] five years have expired from the date of satisfaction, 41 and the time requirement of [six] five years is otherwise satisfied, 42 and the court finds that the person substantially complied with any 43 payment plan ordered pursuant to N.J.S.2C:46-1 et seq., or could 44 not do so due to compelling circumstances affecting his ability to 45 satisfy the [fine] <u>assessment;</u> or

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1 (2) at least [five] <u>four</u> but less than [six] <u>five</u> years have 2 expired from the date of the most recent conviction, payment of 3 [fine] <u>any court-ordered financial assessment</u>, satisfactory 4 completion of probation or parole, or release from incarceration, 5 whichever is later; and

6 the person has not been otherwise convicted of a crime, 7 disorderly persons offense, or petty disorderly persons offense since 8 the time of the most recent conviction; and the court finds in its 9 discretion that [expungement is in the public interest, giving due 10 consideration to the nature of the offense or offenses, and the 11 applicant's character and conduct since the conviction or 12 convictions] <u>compelling circumstances exist to grant the</u> 13 expungement. The prosecutor may object pursuant to section ¹[10] 14 <u>11¹ of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this</u> 15 bill), N.J.S.2C:52-11, N.J.S.2C:52-14, or N.J.S.2C:52-24.

In determining whether compelling circumstances exist for the purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a court may consider the amount of [the fine or fines] <u>any court-ordered financial</u> <u>assessment</u> imposed, the person's age at the time of the offense or offenses, the person's financial condition and other relevant circumstances regarding the person's ability to pay.

b. Records of conviction pursuant to statutes repealed by this
Code for the crimes of murder, manslaughter, treason, anarchy,
kidnapping, rape, forcible sodomy, arson, perjury, false swearing,
robbery, embracery, or a conspiracy or any attempt to commit any
of the foregoing, or aiding, assisting or concealing persons accused
of the foregoing crimes, shall not be expunged.

28 Records of conviction for the following crimes specified in the 29 New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice shall not be subject to 30 expungement: N.J.S.2C:11-1 et seq. (Criminal Homicide), except 31 death by auto as specified in N.J.S.2C:11-5 and strict liability 32 vehicular homicide as specified in section 1 of P.L.2017, c.165 33 (C.2C:11-5.3); N.J.S.2C:13-1 (Kidnapping); section 1 of P.L.1993, 34 c.291 (C.2C:13-6) (Luring or Enticing); section 1 of P.L.2005, c.77 35 (C.2C:13-8) (Human Trafficking); N.J.S.2C:14-2 (Sexual Assault or 36 Aggravated Sexual Assault); subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:14-3 37 (Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact); if the victim is a minor, 38 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:14-3 (Criminal Sexual Contact); if the 39 victim is a minor and the offender is not the parent of the victim, 40 N.J.S.2C:13-2 (Criminal Restraint) or N.J.S.2C:13-3 (False Imprisonment); N.J.S.2C:15-1 (Robbery); N.J.S.2C:17-1 (Arson 41 42 and Related Offenses); subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:24-4 (Endangering 43 the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would 44 impair or debauch the morals of the child, or causing the child other 45 harm); paragraph (4) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-4 46 (Photographing or filming a child in a prohibited sexual act or for 47 portrayal in a sexually suggestive manner); paragraph (3) of

1 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-4 (Causing or permitting a child to 2 engage in a prohibited sexual act or the simulation of an act, or to 3 be portrayed in a sexually suggestive manner); subparagraph (a) of 4 paragraph (5) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-4 (Distributing, 5 possessing with intent to distribute or using a file-sharing program 6 to store items depicting the sexual exploitation or abuse of a child); 7 subparagraph (b) of paragraph (5) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-4 8 (Possessing or viewing items depicting the sexual exploitation or 9 abuse of a child); section 8 of P.L.2017, c.141 (C.2C:24-4.1) 10 (Leader of a child pornography network); N.J.S.2C:28-1 (Perjury); 11 N.J.S.2C:28-2 (False Swearing); paragraph (4) of subsection b. of 12 N.J.S.2C:34-1 (Knowingly promoting the prostitution of the actor's 13 child); section 2 of P.L.2002, c.26 (C.2C:38-2) (Terrorism); 14 subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.2002, c.26 (C.2C:38-3) (Producing 15 or Possessing Chemical Weapons, Biological Agents or Nuclear or 16 Radiological Devices); and conspiracies or attempts to commit such 17 crimes. 18 Records of conviction for any crime committed by a person 19 holding any public office, position or employment, elective or

20 appointive, under the government of this State or any agency or 21 political subdivision thereof and any conspiracy or attempt to 22 commit such a crime shall not be subject to expungement if the 23 crime involved or touched such office, position or employment.

c. In the case of conviction for the sale or distribution of a
controlled dangerous substance or possession thereof with intent to
sell, expungement shall be denied except where the crimes involve:

(1) Marijuana, where the total quantity sold, distributed orpossessed with intent to sell was less than one ounce;

(2) Hashish, where the total quantity sold, distributed orpossessed with intent to sell was less than five grams; or

31 (3) Any controlled dangerous substance provided that the 32 conviction is of the third or fourth degree, where the court finds that 33 Lexpungement is consistent with the public interest, giving due 34 consideration to the nature of the offense and the petitioner's character and conduct since conviction] <u>compelling circumstances</u> 35 exist to grant the expungement. The prosecutor may object 36 pursuant to section ¹[10] 11¹ of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending 37 before the Legislature as this bill), N.J.S.2C:52-11, N.J.S.2C:52-14, 38 39 or N.J.S.2C:52-24.

d. In the case of a State licensed physician or podiatrist 40 convicted of an offense involving drugs or alcohol or pursuant to 41 section 14 or 15 of P.L.1989, c.300 (C.2C:21-20 or 2C:21-4.1), the 42 43 [court] ¹[applicant] <u>petitioner</u>¹ shall notify the State Board of 44 Medical Examiners upon [receipt of a petition] filing an 45 application for expungement [of the conviction and records and information pertaining thereto] and provide the board with a copy 46 thereof. The ¹[applicant] petitioner¹ shall also provide to the court 47

1 a certification attesting that the requirements of this subsection were

2 satisfied. Failure to satisfy the requirements of this subsection shall

3 be grounds for denial of the expungement application and, if

4 applicable, administrative discipline by the board.

- 5 (cf: P.L.2017, c.244, s.1)
- 6 7

3. N.J.S.2C:52-3 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:52-3. Disorderly persons offenses and petty disorderly9 persons offenses.

10 a. Any person who has been convicted of one or more 11 disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses under the 12 laws of this State who has not been convicted of any crime, whether 13 within this State or any other jurisdiction, may present an 14 expungement application to ¹[the Superior Court] <u>a court</u>¹ pursuant 15 to this section. Any person who has been convicted of one or more 16 disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses under the 17 laws of this State who has also been convicted of one or more 18 crimes shall not be eligible to apply for an expungement pursuant to 19 this section, but may present an expungement application to the 20 Superior Court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-2.

b. Any person who has been convicted of one or more
disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses under the
laws of this State who has not been convicted of any crime, whether
within this State or any other jurisdiction, may present an
expungement application ¹pursuant to this section¹ to ¹[the
Superior Court pursuant to this section] any court designated by the
Rules of Court¹ if:

the person has been convicted, under the laws of this State, on 28 29 the same or separate occasions of no more than [four] five disorderly persons offenses, no more than [four] five petty 30 31 disorderly persons offenses, or a combination of no more than 32 [four] <u>five</u> disorderly persons and petty disorderly persons 33 offenses, and the person does not otherwise have any [prior or] 34 subsequent conviction for a disorderly persons or petty disorderly 35 persons offense, whether within this State or any other jurisdiction, 36 such that the total number of convictions for disorderly persons and 37 petty disorderly persons offenses would exceed [four] five. ¹[A] 38 Subject to the provision of subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 39 requiring denial of an expungement petition when a person has had <u>a previous criminal conviction expunged, a¹ prior conviction for</u> 40 another disorderly persons offense or petty disorderly persons 41 42 offense shall not bar presenting an application seeking expungement relief for the convictions that are the subject of the application, 43 44 which may include convictions for no more than five disorderly 45 persons or petty disorderly persons offenses, or combination 46 thereof; or

1 the person has been convicted of multiple disorderly persons 2 offenses or multiple petty disorderly persons offenses under the 3 laws of this State, or a combination of multiple disorderly persons 4 and petty disorderly persons offenses under the laws of this State, 5 which convictions were entered on the same day, and does not 6 otherwise have any [prior or] subsequent conviction for another 7 offense in addition to those convictions included in the 8 expungement application, whether any such conviction was within 9 this State or any other jurisdiction. ¹[A] <u>Subject to the provision of</u> 10 subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 requiring denial of an expungement 11 petition when a person has had a previous criminal conviction expunged, a¹ prior conviction for another disorderly persons or 12 petty disorderly persons offense that was not entered on the same 13 14 day shall not bar presenting an application seeking expungement 15 relief for the convictions entered on the same day that are the 16 subject of the application; or

17 the person has been convicted of multiple disorderly persons 18 offenses or multiple petty disorderly persons offenses under the 19 laws of this State, or a combination of multiple disorderly persons 20 and petty disorderly persons offenses under the laws of this State, 21 which offenses or combination of offenses were interdependent or 22 closely related in circumstances and were committed as part of a 23 sequence of events that took place within a comparatively short 24 period of time, regardless of the date of conviction or sentencing for 25 each individual offense, and the person does not otherwise have any 26 [prior or] subsequent conviction for another offense in addition to 27 those convictions included in the expungement application, whether 28 within this State or any other jurisdiction. ¹[A] Subject to the 29 provision of subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 requiring denial of an 30 expungement petition when a person has had a previous criminal 31 conviction expunged, a¹ prior conviction for another disorderly persons offense or petty disorderly persons offense that was not 32 33 interdependent or closely related in circumstances and was not 34 committed within a comparatively short period of time as described 35 above shall not bar presenting an application seeking expungement 36 relief for the convictions of offenses that were interdependent or 37 closely related and committed within a comparatively short period 38 of time, and that are the subject of the application. 39 For purposes of determining eligibility to present an expungement application to the ¹[Superior Court] court¹ pursuant 40 41 to this section, a conviction for unlawful distribution of, or 42 possessing or having under control with intent to distribute,

43 marijuana or hashish in violation of paragraph (11) of subsection b.
44 of N.J.S.2C:35-5, or a lesser amount of marijuana or hashish in
45 violation of paragraph (12) of subsection b. of that section, or a
46 violation of either of those paragraphs and a violation of subsection

47 a. of section 1 of P.L.1987, c.101 (C.2C:35-7) or subsection a. of

1 section 1 of P.L.1997, c.327 (C.2C:35-7.1), for distributing, or 2 possessing or having under control with intent to distribute, on or 3 within 1,000 feet of any school property, or on or within 500 feet of 4 the real property comprising a public housing facility, public park, 5 or public building, or for obtaining or possessing marijuana or hashish in violation of paragraph (3) of subsection a. of 6 7 N.J.S.2C:35-10, or for an equivalent crime in another jurisdiction, 8 regardless of when the conviction occurred, shall not be considered 9 a conviction of a crime within this State or any other jurisdiction 10 but shall instead be considered a conviction of a disorderly ¹[person] persons¹ offense within this State or an equivalent 11 12 category of offense within the other jurisdiction, and a conviction for obtaining, possessing, using, being under the influence of, or 13 14 failing to make lawful disposition of marijuana or hashish in 15 violation of paragraph (4) of subsection a., or subsection b., or 16 subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:35-10, or a violation involving marijuana 17 or hashish as described herein and using or possessing with intent to 18 use drug paraphernalia with that marijuana or hashish in violation of 19 N.J.S.2C:36-2, or for an equivalent crime or offense in another 20 jurisdiction, regardless of when the conviction occurred, shall not 21 be considered a conviction within this State or any other 22 jurisdiction. 23 The person, if eligible, may present the expungement application 24 after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of his 25 most recent conviction, payment of [fine] any court-ordered 26 financial assessment, satisfactory completion of probation or parole, 27 or release from incarceration, whichever is later. The term ["fine"] "court-ordered financial assessment" as used herein and throughout 28 29 this section means and includes any fine, fee, penalty, restitution, 30 and other [court-ordered] form of financial assessment imposed by the court as part of the sentence for the conviction $1 \frac{1}{\text{or convictions}}$ 31 that are the subject of the application¹, for which payment of 32 33 restitution takes precedence in accordance with chapter 46 of Title 34 2C of the New Jersey Statutes. The person shall submit the expungement application to ¹ [the Superior Court] <u>a court</u>¹ in the 35 36 county in which the most recent conviction for a disorderly persons 37 or petty disorderly persons offense was adjudged, [which contains a

separate,] which includes a duly verified petition as provided in
N.J.S.2C:52-7 [for each conviction sought to be expunged,]
praying that the conviction, or convictions if applicable, and all
records and information pertaining thereto be expunged. The
petition [for each conviction] appended to an application shall
comply with the requirements of N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq.

44 <u>Notwithstanding the provisions of the five-year time</u>
 45 <u>requirement, if, at the time of application, a court-ordered financial</u>
 46 <u>assessment subject to collection under the comprehensive</u>
 47 <u>enforcement program established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.9</u>

1 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) is not yet satisfied due to reasons other than 2 willful noncompliance, but the time requirement of five years is 3 otherwise satisfied, the person may submit the expungement 4 application and the court may grant an expungement; provided, 5 however, that the court shall enter a civil judgment for the unpaid 6 portion of the court-ordered financial assessment in the name of the 7 Treasurer, State of New Jersey and transfer collections and 8 disbursement responsibility to the State Treasurer for the 9 outstanding amount in accordance with section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 10 (C.2C:52-23.1). The Treasurer may specify, and the Administrative 11 Office of the Courts shall collaborate with, the technical and 12 informational standards required to effectuate the transfer of the 13 collection and disbursement responsibilities. Notwithstanding any 14 provision in this law or any other law to the contrary, the court shall 15 have sole discretion to amend the judgment. 16 Additionally, an application may be filed and presented, and the 17 court may grant an expungement pursuant to this section, although 18 less than five years have expired in accordance with the time 19 requirements when the court finds: 20 (1) the [fine] <u>court-ordered financial assessment</u> is satisfied but 21 less than five years have expired from the date of satisfaction, and 22 the five-year time requirement is otherwise satisfied, and the court 23 finds that the person substantially complied with any payment plan 24 ordered pursuant to N.J.S.2C:46-1 et seq., or could not do so due to compelling circumstances affecting his ability to satisfy the [fine] 25 26 assessment; or 27 (2) at least three but less than five years have expired from the 28 date of the most recent conviction, payment of [fine] any court-29 ordered financial assessment, satisfactory completion of probation 30 or parole, or release from incarceration, whichever is later; and 31 the person has not been otherwise convicted of a crime, 32 disorderly persons offense, or petty disorderly persons offense since 33 the time of the most recent conviction; and the court finds in its 34 discretion that **[**expungement is in the public interest, giving due 35 consideration to the nature of the offense or offenses, and the 36 applicant's character and conduct since the conviction or convictions] <u>compelling circumstances exist to grant the</u> 37 38 expungement. The prosecutor may object pursuant to section ¹[10] 11¹ of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this 39 40 bill), N.J.S.2C:52-11, N.J.S.2C:52-14, or N.J.S.2C:52-24. 41 In determining whether compelling circumstances exist for the 42 purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a court may consider 43 the amount of [the fine or fines] any court-ordered financial 44 assessment imposed, the person's age at the time of the offense or 45 offenses, the person's financial condition and other relevant 46 circumstances regarding the person's ability to pay.

47 (cf: P.L.2017, c.244, s.2)

1 4. N.J.S.2C:52-6 is amended to read as follows: 2 Arrests not resulting in conviction. 2C:52-6. 3 When a person has been arrested or held to answer for a a. 4 crime, disorderly persons offense, petty disorderly persons offense, 5 or municipal ordinance violation under the laws of this State or of any governmental entity thereof and proceedings against the person 6 7 were dismissed, the person was acquitted, or the person was 8 discharged without a conviction or finding of guilt, the Superior 9 Court shall, at the time of dismissal, acquittal, or discharge, or, in 10 any case set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, **[**upon receipt 11 of an application from the person,] order the expungement of all records and information relating to the arrest ¹[or charge]¹. 12 (1) If proceedings took place in municipal court, the municipal 13 14 court shall [provide the person, upon request, with appropriate documentation to transmit to the Superior Court to request 15 16 expungement pursuant to <u>follow</u> procedures developed by the Administrative [Office] Director of the Courts. [Upon receipt of 17 18 the documentation, the Superior Court shall enter an ex parte order 19 expunging all records and information relating to the person's arrest 20 or charge. 21 (2) The provisions of N.J.S.2C:52-7 through N.J.S.2C:52-14 22 shall not apply to an expungement pursuant to this subsection [and 23 no fee shall be charged to the person making such application]. 24 (3) An expungement under this subsection shall not be ordered 25 where the dismissal, acquittal, or discharge resulted from a plea agreement involving the conviction of other 26 bargaining 27 charges. This bar, however, shall not apply once the conviction is 28 itself expunged. 29 (4) The [Superior Court] <u>court</u> shall forward a copy of the 30 expungement order to [the appropriate court and to] the county 31 prosecutor. The <u>county</u> prosecutor shall promptly distribute copies 32 of the expungement order to appropriate law enforcement agencies 33 and correctional institutions who have custody and control of the 34 records specified in the order so that they may comply with the 35 requirements of N.J.S.2C:52-15. (5) An expungement related to a dismissal, acquittal, or 36 37 discharge ordered pursuant to this subsection shall not bar any 38 future expungement. 39 (6) Where a dismissal of an offense is based on an eligible 40 servicemember's successful participation in a Veterans Diversion 41 Program pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.), the county 42 prosecutor, on behalf of the eligible servicemember, may move 43 before the court for the expungement of all records and information relating to the arrest 1 [or charge,]¹ and the diversion at the time of 44 45 dismissal pursuant to this section.

46 b. When a person did not apply or a prosecutor did not move47 on behalf of an eligible servicemember for an expungement of an

arrest ¹[or charge]¹ not resulting in a conviction pursuant to 1 2 subsection a. of this section, the person may at any time following 3 the disposition of proceedings, present a duly verified petition as 4 provided in N.J.S.2C:52-7 to the Superior Court in the county in 5 which the disposition occurred praying that records of such arrest 6 and all records and information pertaining thereto be expunged. 7 No fee shall be charged to the person for applying for an 8 expungement of an arrest or charge not resulting in a conviction 9 pursuant to this subsection.]

c. (1) Any person who has had charges dismissed against him
pursuant to a program of supervisory treatment pursuant to
N.J.S.2C:43-12, or conditional discharge pursuant to N.J.S.2C:36A1, or conditional dismissal pursuant to P.L.2013, c.158 (C.2C:4313.1 et al.), shall be barred from the relief provided in this section
until six months after the entry of the order of dismissal.

(2) A servicemember who has successfully participated in a
Veterans Diversion Program pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:4323 et al.) may apply for expungement pursuant to this section at any
time following the order of dismissal if an expungement was not
granted at the time of dismissal.

d. Any person who has been arrested or held to answer for a
crime shall be barred from the relief provided in this section where
the dismissal, discharge, or acquittal resulted from a determination
that the person was insane or lacked the mental capacity to commit
the crime charged.

- 26 (cf: P.L.2017, c.42, s.7)
- 27

28 5. (New section) a. (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of 29 N.J.S.2C:52-2 and N.J.S.2C:52-3 or any other provision of law to 30 the contrary, beginning on the effective date of this section, the following persons may file a petition for an expungement with ¹[the 31 Superior Court <u>]</u> any court designated by the Rules of Court¹ at any 32 time, provided they have satisfied, except as otherwise set forth in 33 34 this subsection, payment of any court-ordered financial assessment 35 as defined in section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52-23.1), 36 satisfactorily completed probation or parole, been released from 37 incarceration, or been discharged from legal custody or supervision 38 at the time of application:

(a) any person who, prior to the ¹[effective date of this] 39 40 development of a system for sealing records from the public pursuant to¹ section ¹<u>6 of P.L.</u>, c. (C.) (pending before the 41 Legislature as this bill)¹, was charged with, convicted of, or 42 adjudicated delinquent for, any number of offenses ¹[, which in the 43 case of a] for, or¹ delinquent ¹acts which¹ if committed by an adult 44 45 would constitute, unlawful distribution of, or possessing or having 46 under control with intent to distribute, marijuana or hashish in 47 violation of paragraph (12) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:35-5, or a

violation of that paragraph and a violation of subsection a. of
section 1 of P.L.1987, c.101 (C.2C:35-7) or subsection a. of section
1 of P.L.1997, c.327 (C.2C:35-7.1) for distributing, or possessing or
having under control with intent to distribute, on or within 1,000
feet of any school property, or on or within 500 feet of the real
property comprising a public housing facility, public park, or public
building; or

8 (b) any person who, prior to the ¹[effective date of this] 9 development of a system for sealing records from the public pursuant to¹ section ¹<u>6 of P.L.</u>, c. (C.) (pending before the 10 Legislature as this bill)¹, was charged with, convicted of, or 11 adjudicated delinquent for, any number of offenses ${}^{1}\mathbf{L}$, which in the 12 case of a <u>for, or</u>¹ delinquent $\frac{1}{acts which}$ if committed by an adult 13 would constitute, obtaining, possessing, using, being under the 14 15 influence of, or failing to make lawful disposition of marijuana or 16 hashish in violation of paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection a., or 17 subsection b., or subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:35-10; or

18 (c) any person who, prior to the ¹[effective date of this] 19 development of a system for sealing records from the public 20 pursuant to¹ section ¹6 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)¹, was charged with, convicted of, or 21 adjudicated delinquent for, any number of offenses ¹[, which in the 22 case of a $\frac{1}{1}$ for, or $\frac{1}{1}$ delinquent $\frac{1}{2}$ acts which $\frac{1}{1}$ if committed by an adult 23 24 would constitute, a violation involving marijuana or hashish as 25 described in subparagraph (a) or (b) of this paragraph and using or 26 possessing with intent to use drug paraphernalia with that marijuana 27 or hashish in violation of N.J.S.2C:36-2.

28 (2) If, at the time of application, a court-ordered financial 29 assessment subject to collection under the comprehensive 30 enforcement program established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.9 31 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) is not yet satisfied due to reasons other than 32 willful noncompliance, but the provisions of paragraph (1) of this 33 subsection are otherwise satisfied, the person may submit the 34 expungement application and the court shall grant an expungement 35 in accordance with subsection c. of this section; provided, however, 36 that at the time the expungement is granted the court shall enter a civil judgment for the unpaid portion of the court-ordered financial 37 38 assessment in the name of the Treasurer, State of New Jersey and 39 transfer collection and disbursement responsibility to the State 40 Treasurer for the outstanding amount in accordance with section 8 41 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52:23.1). The Treasurer may specify, and 42 the Administrative Office of the Courts shall collaborate with, the 43 technical and informational standards required to effectuate the 44 transfer of the collection and disbursement responsibilities. 45 Notwithstanding any provision in this law or any other law to the 46 contrary, the court shall have sole discretion to amend the 47 judgment.

1 b. (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of N.J.S.2C:52-2 and 2 N.J.S.2C:52-3 or any other provision of law to the contrary, 3 beginning on the effective date of this section, a person who, prior, 4 on, or after that effective date is charged with, convicted of, or 5 adjudicated delinquent for, any number of offenses ¹[, which in the case of a] for, or¹ delinquent ¹acts which¹ if committed by an adult 6 7 would constitute, unlawful distribution of, or possessing or having 8 under control with intent to distribute, marijuana or hashish in 9 violation of paragraph (11) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:35-5, may 10 file a petition for an expungement with ¹[the Superior Court] \underline{a} 11 \underline{court}^1 after the expiration of three years from the date of the most 12 recent conviction, payment of any court-ordered financial assessment as defined in ¹[N.J.S.2C:52-2] section 8 of P.L.2017, 13 14 c.244 (C.2C:52-23.1)¹, satisfactory completion of probation or 15 parole, release from incarceration, or discharge from legal custody 16 or supervision, whichever is later.

17 (2) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions concerning the three-18 year time requirement set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, 19 if, at the time of application, a court-ordered financial assessment 20 subject to collection under the comprehensive enforcement program 21 established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) is not yet 22 satisfied due to reasons other than willful noncompliance, but the 23 time requirement is otherwise satisfied, the person may submit the 24 expungement application and the court shall grant an expungement 25 in accordance with subsection c. of this section; provided, however, 26 that at the time the expungement is granted the court shall enter a 27 civil judgment for the unpaid portion of the court-ordered financial 28 assessment in the name of the Treasurer, State of New Jersey and 29 transfer collection and disbursement responsibility to the State 30 Treasurer for the outstanding amount in accordance with section 8 31 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52:23.1). The Treasurer may specify, and 32 the Administrative Office of the Courts shall collaborate with, the 33 technical and informational standards required to effectuate the transfer of the collection and disbursement responsibilities. 34 35 Notwithstanding any provision in this law or any other law to the 36 contrary, the court shall have sole discretion to amend the 37 judgment.

38 (b) Additionally, an application may be filed and presented, and 39 an expungement granted pursuant to subsection c. of this section, 40 although less than three years have expired in accordance with the 41 time requirement set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, when 42 the court finds that the court-ordered financial assessment is 43 satisfied but less than three years have expired from the date of 44 satisfaction, and the time requirement of three years is otherwise 45 satisfied, and the court finds that the person substantially complied 46 with any payment plan ordered pursuant to N.J.S.2C:46-1 et seq., or could not do so due to compelling circumstances affecting the
 person's ability to satisfy the financial assessment.

c. (1) The provisions of N.J.S.2C:52-8 through N.J.S.2C:52-14
shall not apply to an expungement as set forth in this section.

5 (2) Upon review of the petition, the court shall immediately 6 grant an expungement for each ¹[charge] <u>arrest</u>¹, conviction, or 7 adjudication of delinquency as described in subsection a. or b. of 8 this section, as applicable. The court shall provide copies of the 9 expungement order to the person who is the subject of the petition 10 ¹or that person's representative¹.

11 (3) A court order vacating an expungement that is granted to a 12 person pursuant to this subsection may be issued upon an action 13 filed by a county prosecutor with the court that granted the 14 expungement, if filed no later than 30 days after the expungement 15 order was issued, with notice to the person, and a hearing is 16 scheduled at which the county prosecutor shows proof that the 17 expungement was granted in error due to a statutory disqualification 18 to expungement that existed at the time the relief was initially 19 granted.

d. Any public employee or public agency that provides
information or records pursuant to this section shall be immune
from criminal and civil liability as a result of an act of commission
or omission by that person or entity arising out of and in the course
of participation in, or assistance with, in good faith, an
expungement. The immunity shall be in addition to and not in
limitation of any other immunity provided by law.

27

6. (New section) a. 1 [Unless] (1) No later than three months 28 29 after the effective date of this section, the Administrative Office of 30 the Courts shall develop and maintain a system for sealing records 31 from the public, upon order of a court, pertaining to offenses or delinquent acts involving marijuana or hashish as described in this 32 section. Once the system is developed, unless¹ otherwise provided 33 by law, a court shall order the nondisclosure ¹to the public¹ of the 34 records of the court and probation services, and records of law 35 enforcement agencies with respect to any arrest, ¹[charge,]¹ 36 conviction, or adjudication of delinquency, and any proceedings 37 related thereto, upon disposition of any case occurring on or after 38 the '[date] development' of '[this section] the system for sealing 39 records¹ that solely includes the following convictions or 40 adjudications of delinquency: 41

42 **1**[(1)] (a)¹ any number of offenses for, or **1**[juvenile] 43 <u>delinquent</u>¹ acts which if committed by an adult would constitute, 44 unlawful distribution of, or possessing or having under control with 45 intent to distribute, marijuana or hashish in violation of paragraph 46 (12) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:35-5, or a violation of that 47 paragraph and a violation of subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.1987, c.101 (C.2C:35-7) or subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.1997, c.327
(C.2C:35-7.1) for distributing, or possessing or having under
control with intent to distribute, on or within 1,000 feet of any
school property, or on or within 500 feet of the real property
comprising a public housing facility, public park, or public
building;

¹[(2)] (b)¹ any number of offenses for, or ¹[juvenile]
<u>delinquent</u>¹ acts which if committed by an adult would constitute,
obtaining, possessing, using, being under the influence of, or failing
to make lawful disposition of marijuana or hashish in violation of
paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection a., or subsection b., or subsection
c. of N.J.S.2C:35-10; or

13 ¹[(3) a violation] (c) any number of offenses for, or delinquent 14 acts which if committed by an adult would constitute, a violation¹ 15 involving marijuana or hashish as described in ¹[paragraph (1)] <u>subparagraph (a)</u>¹ or 1 [(2)] (b)¹ of this 1 [subsection] <u>paragraph</u>¹ 16 and ¹[any number of offenses for, or juvenile acts which if 17 committed by an adult would constitute, **]**¹ using or possessing with 18 19 intent to use drug paraphernalia ¹with that marijuana or hashish¹ in violation of N.J.S.2C:36-2 ¹[if the drug paraphernalia appears to be 20 21 for use, intended for use, or designed for use with marijuana or 22 hashish, unless the owner or anyone in control of the object was in 23 possession of one ounce or more of marijuana, five grams or more 24 of hashish, or another illegal controlled dangerous substance or 25 controlled substance analog, or the object was in proximity of one 26 ounce or more of marijuana, five grams or more of hashish, or 27 another illegally possessed controlled dangerous substance or 28 controlled substance analog to indicate its use, intended use, or 29 design for use with that controlled dangerous substance or 30 controlled substance analog].

31 (2) If the disposition of the case includes a court-ordered 32 financial assessment subject to collection under the comprehensive 33 enforcement program established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.9 34 (C.2B:19-1 et al.), then at the time of issuing the sealing order, the 35 court shall also enter a civil judgment for the unpaid portion of the 36 court-ordered financial assessment in the name of the Treasurer, 37 State of New Jersey and transfer collections and disbursement 38 responsibility to the State Treasurer for the outstanding amount in 39 accordance with section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52-23.1). The 40 term "court-ordered financial assessment" as used herein means and 41 includes any fine, fee, penalty, restitution, and other form of 42 financial assessment imposed by the court as part of the sentence 43 for the conviction or convictions that are the subject of the sealing 44 order, for which payment of restitution takes precedence in 45 accordance with chapter 46 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes. 46 The Treasurer may specify, and the Administrative Office of the 47 Courts shall collaborate with, the technical and informational

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1 standards required to effectuate the transfer of the collection and

2 <u>disbursement responsibilities</u>. Notwithstanding any provision in this

3 law or any other law to the contrary, the court shall have sole

4 <u>discretion to amend the judgment</u>¹.

b. Notice of the sealing order issued pursuant to subsection a.of this section shall be provided to:

7 (1) The Attorney General, county prosecutor, or municipal8 prosecutor handling the case; and

9 (2) The State Police and any local law enforcement agency10 having custody of the files and records.

Upon the entry of a sealing order issued pursuant to 11 c. 12 subsection a. of this section, the proceedings in the case shall be 13 sealed and all index references shall be marked "not available" or 14 "no record." Law enforcement agencies shall reply to requests for 15 information or records of a person subject to a sealing order that 16 there is no information or records. The person may also reply to 17 any inquiry that there is no information or record, except that 18 information subject to a sealing order shall be revealed by that 19 person if seeking employment within the judicial branch or with a 20 law enforcement or corrections agency, and the information shall 21 continue to provide a disability to the extent provided by law.

22 d. Records subject to a sealing order issued pursuant to 23 subsection a. of this section may be maintained for purposes of prior offender status, identification $\frac{1}{2}$ and law enforcement 24 purposes, provided that the records shall not be considered 25 26 whenever the Pretrial Services Program established by the 27 Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2014, c.31 (C.2A:162-25) conducts a risk assessment on an 28 29 eligible defendant for the purpose of making recommendations to 30 the court concerning an appropriate pretrial release decision in 31 accordance with sections 1 through 11 of P.L.2014, c.31 (C.2A:162-32 15 et seq.) or used for sentencing purposes in any other case.

33

34 7. (New section) "Clean slate" expungement by petition. a. A 35 person, who is not otherwise eligible to present an expungement 36 application pursuant to any other section of chapter 52 of Title 2C 37 of the New Jersey Statutes or other section of law, may present an 38 expungement application to the Superior Court pursuant to this 39 section if the person has been convicted of one or more crimes, one 40 or more disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses, or a 41 combination of one or more crimes and offenses under the laws of 42 this State, unless the person has a conviction for a crime which is 43 not subject to expungement pursuant to subsection b. or c. of 44 N.J.S.2C:52-2. The person may present an application pursuant to 45 this section regardless of whether the person would otherwise be 46 ineligible pursuant to subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:52-14 for having 47 had a previous criminal conviction expunged, or due to having been

granted an expungement pursuant to this or any other provision of
 law.

b. The person, if eligible, may present the expungement 3 4 application after the expiration of a period of ten years from the 5 date of the person's most recent conviction, payment of any court-6 ordered financial assessment, satisfactory completion of probation 7 or parole, or release from incarceration, whichever is later. The 8 term "court-ordered financial assessment" as used herein and 9 throughout this section means and includes any fine, fee, penalty, 10 restitution, and other form of financial assessment imposed by the court as part of the sentence for the conviction ¹or convictions that 11 12 are the subject of the application¹, for which payment of restitution 13 takes precedence in accordance with chapter 46 of Title 2C of the 14 New Jersey Statutes. The person shall submit the expungement 15 application to the Superior Court in the county in which the most 16 recent conviction for a crime or offense was adjudged, which 17 includes a duly verified petition as provided in N.J.S.2C:52-7 18 praying that all the person's convictions, and all records and 19 information pertaining thereto, be expunged. The petition appended 20 to an application shall comply with the requirements set forth in 21 N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq.

22 c. Notwithstanding the provisions concerning the ten-year time 23 requirement, if, at the time of application, a court-ordered financial 24 assessment subject to collection under the comprehensive 25 enforcement program established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.9 26 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) is not yet satisfied due to reasons other than 27 willful noncompliance, but the time requirement of ten years is otherwise satisfied, the person may submit the expungement 28 application and the court shall grant an expungement in accordance 29 30 with this section; provided, however, that at the time of the 31 expungement the court shall enter a civil judgment for the unpaid 32 portion of the court-ordered financial assessment in the name of the 33 Treasurer, State of New Jersey and transfer collection and 34 disbursement responsibility to the State Treasurer for the 35 outstanding amount in accordance with section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 36 (C.2C:52-23.1). The Treasurer may specify, and the Administrative 37 Office of the Courts shall collaborate with, the technical and 38 informational standards required to effectuate the transfer of the 39 collection and disbursement responsibilities. Notwithstanding any 40 provision in this law or any other law to the contrary, the court shall 41 have sole discretion to amend the judgment.

d. No expungement applications may be filed pursuant to this 42 43 section after the establishment of the automated ¹"clean slate"¹ 44 of process pursuant to subsection a. section 8 of 45 P.L. c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1 8. (New section) Automated "clean slate" process. a. ¹[The 2 following provisions set forth in this subsection shall become 3 operative on the 180th day following enactment of this section:]¹

(1) The State shall develop and implement an automated 4 5 process, based, to the greatest extent practicable, on the 6 recommendations of the task force established pursuant to 7 subsection b. of this section, by which all convictions, and all 8 records and information pertaining thereto, shall be rendered 9 inaccessible to the public, through sealing, expungement, or some 10 equivalent process, for any person who has been convicted of one or 11 more crimes, one or more disorderly persons or petty disorderly 12 persons offenses, or a combination of one or more crimes and 13 offenses under the laws of this State, unless the person has a 14 conviction for a crime which is not subject to expungement 15 pursuant to subsection b. or c. of N.J.S.2C:52-2, upon the expiration 16 of a period of ten years from the date of the person's most recent 17 conviction, payment of any court-ordered financial assessment, 18 satisfactory completion of probation or parole, or release from 19 incarceration, whichever is later. The term "court-ordered financial 20 assessment" as used herein means and includes any fine, fee, 21 penalty, restitution, and other form of financial assessment imposed 22 by the court as part of the sentence for the conviction 1_{or} 23 convictions that are subject to being rendered inaccessible to the public¹, for which payment of restitution takes precedence in 24 25 accordance with chapter 46 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

26 (2) The automated process shall be designed to restore a 27 person's convictions and other ¹information contained in the person's¹ criminal history ¹[on the State Police Criminal History] 28 record information files¹ if the person is subsequently convicted of 29 a crime, for which the conviction is not subject to expungement 30 31 pursuant to subsection b. or c. of N.J.S.2C:52-2. A prosecutor may submit the restored criminal history ¹record information¹ to the 32 33 court for consideration at sentencing for the subsequent conviction.

(3) Upon establishment of the automated process pursuant to
this subsection, any pending "clean slate" expungement petitions
filed pursuant to section 7 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before
the Legislature as this bill) shall be rendered moot and shall be
withdrawn or dismissed in accordance with procedures established
by the Supreme Court.

b. (1) (a) There is established a task force for the purpose of
examining, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding the
development and implementation of the automated process
described in subsection a. of this section, by which all of a person's
convictions, and all records and information pertaining thereto,
shall be rendered inaccessible to the public.

46 (b) The task force shall consist of at least the following47 members:

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1 The Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information 2 Technology, or a designee or designees; 3 The Attorney General, or a designee or designees, one or more of 4 whom may be members of the State Bureau of Identification and the 5 Information Technology Bureau in the Division of State Police designated by the Superintendent of the State Police; 6 7 The Administrative Director of the Courts, or a designee or 8 designees; 9 The Director of Information Technology for the Administrative 10 Office of the Courts, or a designee or designees; 11 The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or a 12 designee or designees; 13 The President of the New Jersey County Jail Wardens 14 Association, or a designee or designees; 15 The President of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of 16 Police, or a designee or designees; 17 Two members of the Senate, who shall each be of different 18 political parties, appointed by the Governor upon the 19 recommendation of the Senate President; 20 Two members of the General Assembly, who shall each be of 21 different political parties, appointed by the Governor upon the 22 recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly; Two members of academic institutions or non-profit entities 23 24 ¹<u>appointed by the Governor</u>¹ who ¹<u>each</u>¹ have a background in, or special knowledge of, computer technology, database management, 25 26 or recordkeeping processes; and Four members of the public appointed by the Governor who each 27 28 have a background in, or special knowledge of, the technological, 29 criminal record or legal processes of expungement, or criminal 30 history recordkeeping, of which two of whom shall be appointed by 31 the Governor upon recommendation of the Senate President and two 32 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor upon recommendation 33 of the Speaker of the General Assembly. 34 (c) Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days 35 of the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original 36 37 appointments were made. 38 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, 39 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the 40 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the 41 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task 42 force for its purposes. 43 (e) The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no 44 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The 45 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and 46 shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task 47 force.

(f) The Department of Law and Public Safety shall provide such
stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
may require and as may be available for its purposes.

8 (2) It shall be the duty of the task force to identify, analyze and 9 recommend solutions to any technological, fiscal, resource, and 10 practical issues that may arise in the development and 11 implementation of the automated process described in subsection a. 12 of this section. In carrying out these responsibilities, the task force 13 shall to the extent feasible:

(a) examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the design and
implementation of automated processes in Pennsylvania and
California and other jurisdictions that have implemented similar
programs, and consult with officials in those jurisdictions
concerning their processes and any technological, fiscal, resource,
and practical issues that they may have encountered, contemplated,
or addressed in developing and implementing those systems; and

(b) consult with non-profit computer programming
organizations such as "Code for America" with expertise in
assisting in the implementation of automated processes and
expungement processing generally, to the extent those organizations
make themselves available for this purpose; and

(c) identify the necessary systemic changes, required
technology, cost estimates, and possible sources of funding for
developing and implementing the automated process described in
subsection a. of this section.

30 (3) (a) The task force shall issue a final report of its findings
31 and recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature
32 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later
33 than 180 days after the task force organizes.

34 (b) The task force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its35 report.

36

37 9. N.J.S.2C:52-8 is amended to read as follows:

38 2C:52-8. Statements to accompany petition. There shall be39 attached to a petition for expungement:

a. A statement with the affidavit or verification that there are
no disorderly persons, petty disorderly persons or criminal charges
pending against the petitioner at the time of filing of the petition for
expungement.

b. In those instances where the petitioner is seeking the expungement of a criminal conviction **[**, or the expungement of convictions**]** pursuant to **[**N.J.S.2C:52-3 for multiple disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses, all of which were entered the same day, or which were interdependent or closely

1 related in circumstances and were committed as part of a sequence 2 of events that took place within a comparatively short period of 3 time] N.J.S.2C:52-2, a statement with affidavit or verification that 4 he has never been granted expungement, sealing or similar relief 5 regarding a criminal conviction [or convictions for multiple 6 disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses, all of which 7 were entered the same day, or which were interdependent or closely 8 related in circumstances and were committed as part of a sequence 9 of events that took place within a comparatively short period of 10 time] by any court in this State or other state or by any Federal court. "Sealing" refers to the relief previously granted pursuant to 11 12 P.L.1973, c.191 (C.2A:85-15 et seq.).

c. In those instances where a person has received a dismissal of
a criminal charge because of acceptance into a supervisory
treatment or any other diversion program, a statement with affidavit
or verification setting forth the nature of the original charge, the
court of disposition and date of disposition.

<u>d.</u> A statement as to whether the petitioner has legally changed
 the petitioner's name, the date of judgment of name change, and the
 previous legal name. If applicable, the petitioner shall provide a
 <u>copy of the order for name change.</u>

22 (cf: P.L.2017, c.244, s.4)

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¹10. N.J.S.2C:52-10 is amended to read as follows:

25 2C:52-10. [A] a. Until the date that the e-filing system is 26 established by the Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to section 11 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature 27 28 as this bill), a copy of each petition, together with a copy of all 29 supporting documents, shall be served pursuant to the rules of court 30 upon the Superintendent of State Police; the Attorney General; the 31 county prosecutor of the county wherein the court is located; the 32 chief of police or other executive head of the police department of 33 the municipality wherein the offense was committed; the chief law 34 enforcement officer of any other law enforcement agency of this 35 State which participated in the arrest of the individual; the 36 superintendent or warden of any institution in which the petitioner 37 was confined; and, if a disposition was made by a municipal court, 38 upon the magistrate of that court. Service shall be made within 5 39 days from the date of the order setting the date for the hearing upon 40 the matter.

b. On and after the date that the e-filing system is established
pursuant to section 11 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the
Legislature as this bill), a copy of each petition, together with a
copy of all supporting documents, shall, upon their filing, be served
electronically pursuant to the rules of court upon the Superintendent
of State Police, the Attorney General, the county prosecutor of the
county wherein the court is located, and the county prosecutor of

1 any county in which the petitioner was convicted, using the e-filing

2 <u>system</u>.¹

3 (cf: N.J.S.2C:52-10)

4

5 ¹[10.] <u>11.</u>¹ (New section) a. (1) No later than twelve months 6 after the effective date of this section, the Administrative Office of 7 the Courts shall develop and maintain a system for petitioners to 8 electronically file expungement applications pursuant to 9 The e-filing system shall be available N.J.S.2C:52-1 et seq. 10 Statewide and include electronic filing, electronic service of 11 process, and electronic document management.

(2) The system shall, ¹[within 30 days of the person filing the
application for expungement] <u>in accordance with N.J.S.2C:52-10</u>¹,
electronically notify ¹[relevant law enforcement and criminal
justice agencies, if applicable, pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-10] <u>and</u>
serve copies of the petition and all supporting documents upon the
Superintendent of State Police, the Attorney General, and each
county prosecutor as described in that section¹.

(3) The system shall electronically compile a listing of all
possibly relevant Judiciary records for an expungement petitioner
and transmit this information to ¹[the appropriate criminal justice
agencies subject to notice of] <u>all parties served with copies of</u>¹ the
petition ¹<u>and all supporting documents</u>¹ in accordance with
¹[N.J.S.2C:52-10] <u>paragraph (2) of this subsection</u>¹.

25 b. Upon receipt of the information from the court pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection a. of this section, the 26 Superintendent of State Police, the Attorney General, and the 27 28 county prosecutor of any county in which the person was convicted 29 shall, within 60 days, review and confirm, as appropriate, the information against the ¹[Criminal Case History] person's criminal 30 history record information files¹ and notify the court of any 31 32 inaccurate or incomplete data contained in the information ¹files,¹ 33 or of any other basis for ineligibility, if applicable, pursuant to 34 N.J.S.2C:52-14.

c. The court shall provide copies of an expungement order to
the person who is the subject of the petition and electronically
transmit the order to the ¹[previously noticed parties, or parties
otherwise entitled to notice,] <u>law enforcement and criminal justice</u>
agencies which, at the time of the hearing on the petition, possess
any records specified in the order¹ in accordance with N.J.S.2C:5215.

42

43 1 [11.] <u>12.</u> N.J.S.2C:52-14 is amended to read as follows:

44 2C:52-14. A petition for expungement filed pursuant to this 45 chapter shall be denied when: a. Any statutory prerequisite, including any provision of this
 chapter, is not fulfilled or there is any other statutory basis for
 denying relief.

b. The need for the availability of the records outweighs the 4 5 desirability of having a person freed from any disabilities as 6 otherwise provided in this chapter. An application may be denied 7 under this subsection only following objection of a party given 8 notice pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-10 and the burden of asserting such grounds shall be on the objector [, except that in regard to 9 expungement sought for third or fourth degree drug offenses 10 pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:52-2, the 11 court shall consider whether this factor applies regardless of 12 13 whether any party objects on this basis].

c. In connection with a petition under N.J.S.2C:52-6, the
acquittal, discharge or dismissal of charges resulted from a plea
bargaining agreement involving the conviction of other charges.
This bar, however, shall not apply once the conviction is itself
expunged.

d. The arrest or conviction sought to be expunged is, at the
time of hearing, the subject matter of civil litigation between the
petitioner or his legal representative and the State, any
governmental entity thereof or any State agency and the
representatives or employees of any such body.

e. **[A]** Except as set forth in subsection a. of section 7 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) concerning a "clean slate" expungement petition, the person has had a previous criminal conviction expunged regardless of the lapse of time between the prior expungement, or sealing under prior law, and the present petition. This provision shall not apply:

30 (1) When the person is seeking the expungement of a municipal31 ordinance violation or,

32 (2) When the person is seeking the expungement of records33 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:52-6.

f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2017, c.244)

35 (cf: P.L.2017, c.244, s.5)

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¹[12.] $\underline{13.}^{1}$ N.J.S.2C:52-15 is amended to read as follows:

2C:52-15. a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, 38 39 if an order of expungement of records of arrest or conviction under 40 this chapter is granted by the court, all the records specified in said order shall be removed from the files of the ¹law enforcement and 41 criminal justice¹ agencies which ¹[have been noticed of the 42 pendency of petitioner's motion and which are, by the provisions of 43 this chapter, entitled to notice]¹, ¹at the time of the hearing of the 44 petition, possess the records¹ and shall be placed in the control of a 45 person who has been designated by the head of each such agency 46 47 ¹[which, at the time of the hearing, possesses said records]¹. That

1 designated person shall, except as otherwise provided in this 2 chapter, ensure that such records or the information contained 3 therein are not released for any reason and are not utilized or referred to for any purpose. In response to requests for information 4 or records of the person who was arrested or convicted, all 5 ¹[noticed]¹ officers, departments and agencies shall reply, with 6 7 respect to the arrest, conviction or related proceedings which are the 8 subject of the order, that there is no record information. ¹<u>The court</u> 9 shall provide proof of expungement to the person whose records 10 have been expunged or to that person's representative.¹

b. Records of the Probation Division of the Superior Court 11 12 related to [restitution, a fine, or other] any court-ordered financial assessment that remains due at the time the court grants an 13 14 expungement [may be retained as confidential, restricted-access 15 records in the Judiciary's automated system to facilitate the 16 collection and distribution of any outstanding assessments by the 17 comprehensive enforcement program established pursuant to 18 P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) as ordered by the court. The 19 Administrative Director of the Courts shall ensure that such records are not released to the public. Such records shall be removed from 20 the Judiciary's automated system upon satisfaction of court-ordered 21 22 financial assessments or by order of the court] ¹or sealing of records¹ shall be transferred to the New Jersey Department of 23 Treasury for the collection and disbursement of future payments 24 25 and satisfaction of judgments in accordance with section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52-23.1). The term "court-ordered financial 26 27 assessment" as used herein and throughout this section means and 28 includes any fine, fee, penalty, restitution, and other form of 29 financial assessment imposed by the court as part of the sentence for the conviction ¹or convictions that are the subject of the 30 expungement or sealing order¹, for which payment of restitution 31 32 takes precedence in accordance with chapter 46 of Title 2C of the 33 New Jersey Statutes. The Treasurer may specify, and the 34 Administrative Office of the Courts shall collaborate with, the technical and informational standards required to effectuate the 35 transfer of the collection and disbursement responsibilities. 36 37 Notwithstanding any provision in this law or any other law to the 38 contrary, the court shall have sole authority to amend the judgment 39 concerning the amount of any court-ordered financial assessment 40 that remains due at the time the court grants an expungement ¹or sealing of records¹. 41 42 (cf: P.L.2017, c.244, s.6) 43 ¹[13.] <u>14.</u>¹ Section 8 of P.L.2017, c.244 (C.2C:52-23.1) is

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45 amended to read as follows:

8. a. Notwithstanding any provision in this act to the contrary, 46 47 expunged ¹or sealed¹ records may be used [by the comprehensive

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1 enforcement program established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.9 2 (C.2B:19-1 et al.) to [collect restitution, fines and other] facilitate the State Treasurer's collection of any court-ordered financial 3 4 assessments that remain due at the time an expungement ¹<u>or sealing</u> 5 of records¹ is granted by the court. The term "court-ordered financial assessment" as used herein and throughout this section 6 7 means and includes any fine, fee, penalty, restitution, and other 8 form of financial assessment imposed by the court as part of the 9 sentence for the conviction ¹or convictions that are the subject of the expungement or sealing order¹, for which payment of 10 restitution takes precedence in accordance with chapter 46 of Title 11 12 <u>2C of the New Jersey Statutes</u>. Information regarding the nature of such financial assessments or their derivation from expunged 13 14 ¹[criminal convictions] <u>or sealed records</u>¹ shall not be disclosed to the public. Any record of a civil judgment for the unpaid portion of 15 16 any court-ordered financial [obligations] assessment that may be docketed after the court has granted an expungement ¹[of the 17 underlying criminal conviction] or sealing of records¹ shall be 18 entered in the name of the Treasurer, State of New Jersey. The State 19 20 Treasurer shall thereafter administer such judgments **[**in cooperation with the comprehensive enforcement program] without 21 22 disclosure of any information related to the underlying ¹[criminal]¹ 23 nature of the assessments.

b. [The court, after providing appropriate due process, may 24 25 nullify an expungement granted to a person pursuant to subsection 26 a. of N.J.S.2C:52-2 if the person willfully fails to comply with an 27 established payment plan or otherwise cooperate with the 28 comprehensive enforcement program to facilitate the collection of 29 any outstanding restitution, fines, and other court-ordered 30 assessments, provided that prior to nullifying the expungement the 31 person shall be afforded an opportunity to comply with or 32 restructure the payment plan, or otherwise cooperate to facilitate the 33 collection of outstanding restitution, fines, and other court-ordered 34 assessments. In the event of nullification, the court may restore the 35 previous expungement granted if the person complies with the 36 payment plan or otherwise cooperates to facilitate the collection of 37 any outstanding restitution, fines, and other court-ordered assessments.] (Deleted by amendment, P.L. c.) (pending before 38 39 the Legislature as this bill)

40 (cf: P.L.2017, c.244, s.8)

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42 1 [14.] <u>15.</u> N.J.S.22A:2-25 is amended to read as follows:

43 22A:2-25. Law Division filing fees

44 Upon the filing, entering or docketing with the deputy clerk of
45 the Superior Court in the various counties of the herein-mentioned
46 papers or documents by either party to any action or proceeding in

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1 the Law Division of the Superior Court, other than a civil action in 2 which a summons or writ must be issued, he shall pay the deputy 3 clerk of the court the following fees: 4 Entering of complaint or first paper of any action or proceeding ... 5\$ 9.00 6 Filing 7 complaint..... 8\$ 3.00 9 Filing answer or 10 appearance.....\$ 6.00 11 12 Filing any other pleading, any amended pleading or any amendment 13 to a pleading\$ 3.00 14 Filing and entering each order or judgment of court, including 15 order to show cause.....\$ 6.00 16 Filing and entering a voluntary dismissal, either by stipulation or order of court.....\$ 7.50 17 18 Filing notice of appeal 19 20\$15.00 21 Filing proceedings or papers on appeal 22\$ 6.00 petition for 23 **[**Filing first expungement paper on\$22.50 24 25 Filing any other paper or document not herein stated 26\$ 4.50 27 Signing and sealing habeas corpus 28\$ 29 7.50 30 Signing and issuing 31 subpena..... 32\$ 1.50 33 (cf: P.L.1985, c.422, s.1) 34 35 ¹[15.] <u>16.</u>¹ N.J.S.2C:52-29 is amended to read as follows: 2C:52-29. Any person who files an application pursuant to this 36 37 chapter shall [pay to the State Treasurer] not be charged a fee [of \$30.00 to defer administrative costs in processing an application 38 39 hereunder <u>for applying for an expungement, and any fee set forth</u> in the Rules of Court, which was, based on the Supreme Court's 40 41 temporary authority pursuant to sections 12 through 15, and 17 42 through 19 of P.L.2014, c.31 (C.2B:1-7 through C.2B:1-13), a 43 revision or supplement by the Supreme Court to the fee charged 44 pursuant to this section prior to its amendment by P.L. , 45 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), is void. (cf: N.J.S.2C:52-29) 46

¹[16.] <u>17.</u>¹ There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
Department of Law and Public Safety the sum of \$15,000,000 to
implement the provisions of this act.

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¹[17.] <u>18.</u>¹ Section 8 of this act, concerning the automated 5 "clean slate" process and the task force assisting with its 6 development and implementation, sections ¹[14 and]¹ 15 ¹and 16¹ 7 of this act, eliminating expungement filings fees, and section ¹[16] 8 17^{1} of this act, making an appropriation, shall take effect 9 immediately, and the remaining sections of this act shall take effect 10 on the 180th day following enactment. Concerning those sections 11 12 which do not take effect immediately, the Attorney General and the Administrative Director of the Courts may take any anticipatory 13 administrative action as may be necessary to effectuate those 14 15 provisions.

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Revises expungement eligibility and procedures, including new
"clean slate" automated process to render convictions and related
records inaccessible; creates e-filing system for expungements;
eliminates expungement filing fees; appropriates \$15 million to
DLPS for implementation.