

Dear Governor,

Please support expunction relief by signing into law SB 1477.

Please visit www.deferredadjudication.org or www.wipetheslateclean.com .

SB 1477 is a bill dealing with the increasing injustice of deferred adjudication laws in Texas as they pertain to expunction of public records. The bill does not benefit Sex Offenders, re-offenders, or people with DWI.

If passed, it would mean that people would get a chance at a start fresh after 5 years have passed for a deferred adjudicated misdemeanor or 10 years for a deferred adjudicated felony. Many of the people affected by deferred adjudication are youths who commit a first and only offense. According to Criminal Justice Policy Council statistics, in over 72 % of the cases, those people who have been arrested and subsequently placed on deferred adjudication probation are never arrested again after successfully completing the terms of their community supervision/probation. The state of Texas is unwittingly creating a new underclass of citizens who are unable to find gainful employment and are experiencing a wide array of discrimination including (1) being denied apartment housing (2) being denied the opportunity to participate in their child's after-school extra curricular activities (3) being denied certain types of vocational/occupational licenses (4) being denied insurance coverage, etc. etc. Deferred Adjudication is not considered a conviction, but according to the current Texas Criminal code, a person who successfully completes their deferred adjudication is disqualified from being able to obtain expunction relief as it pertains to the record of his/her arrest. I believe that this is wrong and needs to be fixed. The people who would benefit from this bill are good citizens already contributing to their communities whose only desire is to remain law-abiding, hard working people.

The bill would help a lot of people who are asking for forgiveness and relief from having to live through the harsh penalties that stems from having an arrest record. Please notice the phrase "arrest record". Even though an individual may have successfully completed the terms of their deferred adjudication and there was no final finding of guilt, and hence, no conviction, a record of the arrest remains! It is precisely the record of the arrest, as well as the record of the action of the court (the awarding of deferred adjudication) that is causing so much misery to many hundreds of thousands of Texans all across our state. The bill aims to help those who have kept their end of the agreement with the criminal court system. This bill is not intended to help repeat offenders. This bill will expunge the records of first time offenders who do not re-offend after 5 or 10 years have passed since the anniversary of the court action (deferred adjudication).

SB 1477 gives people the chance to truly turn their lives around without being trapped into having a habitual criminal stigma attached for the rest of their lives. SB 1477 allows them to obtain relief from relentless persecution for a youthful, inconsiderate act after a certain amount of time has passed. This bill will also help affected non-custodial parents who are paying child support (thereby helping their children) by helping them to obtain employment and keep gainful employment so that they can continue to support their children as directed to do so by the Family Court System in Texas. It does not make sense to put a parent in jail for non-payment of child support when that person cannot find a job due to an arrest record for an offense that happened many years ago and that cannot be expunged!

It is a good bill to pass because it helps to promote the idea of preventing criminal recidivism by offering one-time offenders the incentive to stay one-time offenders. It prevents people from losing hope and getting locked into a cycle of crime that the current expunction relief law does not address. I am wholeheartedly convinced that the governor should agree with me, that 5 or 10 years should be enough time to punish someone for a youthful or a first time offense. During the previous legislative session (77th session), a similar House Bill (HB 1415) was passed unanimously by the congress and sent to the Governor's office for signature, which was then vetoed by the governor. I believe that the Governor should now realize what most mainstream Texans realize, and what all of the state legislature also realize. Expunction law relief for people affected by deferred adjudication should be passed into law.

Please support **SB 1477**

Thanks, (Please Print Name below, address optional)

Thank you for your support.
Mail this letter to Governor Perry's office.

**Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428**

(Sign name)

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