HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3119 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1297

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gloria L. Fox

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to permit purging of juveniles delinquency records.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Brian M. Ashe	*2nd Hampden*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*
Marjorie C. Decker	*25th Middlesex*
Linda Dorcena Forry	*First Suffolk*
Carmine L. Gentile	*13th Middlesex*
Carlos Gonzalez	*10th Hampden*

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By Ms. Fox of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1297) of Gloria L. Fox and others for legislation to permit the purging of juveniles delinquency records. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *1323* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act to permit purging of juveniles delinquency records.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 276 of the General Laws is hereby amended inserting after section 100C, a new Section 100D:

Upon final disposition of a person's juvenile delinquency proceeding, and completion of any court-ordered disposition, the person may petition the court for an order directing purging of all law enforcement, court activity and probation records leading and related to the person's proceedings in juvenile court. Records shall be considered purged when they are removed and destroyed and leave no trace of a person's identifying information. Any person on his own behalf or by his attorney may seek to have his delinquency record(s) purged by the juvenile court by filing a petition upon the completion of, or otherwise after the delinquency proceedings and/or

10 when the requirements of the court's disposition for the juvenile has been met, whichever is
11 later.

12 A person whose records have been purged may consider the purged case never to have
13 occurred and may so reply upon any inquiry. In any situation where a clerk is requested whether
14 a purged record exists, the clerk shall respond that no such record exists.

15 There shall be a rebuttable presumption in favor of purging records of juveniles who have
16 been exonerated, whose cases have been dismissed with prejudice, a nolle prosequi entered,
17 terminated due to absence of evidence, or when the court takes judicial notice that the person's
18 arrest has been made without probable cause or for constitutionally protected conduct. In making
19 its determination whether a person's law enforcement and juvenile court activity records should
20 be purged, the court shall consider the following factors: severity of the offense, probable
21 adverse consequences to the person as a result of maintenance of the record, any specific public
22 safety need to maintain such a record, the person's personal history and behavior since the
23 juvenile proceedings were commenced and/or disposed of that provides indicia of rehabilitation.

24 If the Court orders that a record be purged, it shall circulate its order to purge all
25 personal, identifying information from the person's record, which may include police booking
26 reports or records, fingerprint records, photographs, and all court activity records, probation
27 records, electronically stored records of any nature or description relating to the person's juvenile
28 court proceeding, to local, public housing, public school, college or University police agencies,
29 the MBTA police, the state police, the office of the Commissioner of Probation, the Criminal
30 History Systems Board, as well as state and federal agencies, officials or institutions known to
31 collect and have information pertaining to delinquency or youthful offender charges. Data from

32 such records may be kept solely for the purpose of statistical and administrative analysis of the
33 agency holding such records. All agencies shall purge records within 30 days of receipt of the
34 Court order.

35 Persons prosecuted as Youthful Offenders pursuant to Section 54 of Chapter 119 of the
36 General Laws, may similarly petition the Court for purging records containing their identity from
37 court, police and probation agencies, as well as indictments not resulting in a youthful offender
38 trial, where there has been a finding of not delinquent and/or not guilty and the person has been
39 declared not a youthful offender.

40 The juvenile court shall inform a juvenile of his right to petition for purging or sealing his
41 records as provided for by law. The clerk of the juvenile court shall provide juveniles with a
42 packet providing information on sealing and purging juvenile records written in plain language
43 which shall include a sample petition.

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