



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, Vice President, Government Affairs
DATE: May 3, 2023
RE: Support H.B. 689 – Clean Slate expansion

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I urge you to support H.B. 689 to expand Pennsylvania's Clean Slate law, which the committee is scheduled to consider today.

Pennsylvania employers of all sizes and spanning a broad range of industries continue to report difficulty finding individuals to fill open positions. This workforce crisis is holding back Pennsylvania's economy and addressing it will require concerted action from all stakeholders, including lawmakers advancing policies that encourage people into the workforce.

The PA Chamber has supported Clean Slate as one part of this broad workforce strategy. The first iteration, Act 56 of 2018, provided that Pennsylvanians with old criminal records for certain nonviolent summary and misdemeanor offenses could have those records automatically sealed from public view if they remained crime free for a period of time. H.B. 689 would expand Clean Slate to certain nonviolent drug-related felonies if the individual has remained crime-free for 10 years. The law also includes key liability protections for employers, which addressed legitimate concerns raised by the business community.

Advocates for and direct beneficiaries of Clean Slate report that this policy encourages individuals to reenter the workforce, look for employment, apply for and accept jobs and apply for promotions. We believe those expressing these sentiments. This population represents a potentially vast pool of under-tapped talent in Pennsylvania and we urge the committee to support H.B. 689 to help facilitate their employment.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.