

Press Release..



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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For More Information:

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Ford Announces Relief for Ex-offenders

Chicago - State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is happy to announce House Bill 3061 is now signed and sealed as Public Act 098-0142, Illinois' new law which will seal certain non-violent offenses, helping ex-offenders become more productive citizens. Ford's House Bill 3061 passed the General Assembly in April and with the Governor's signature today, is now law in Illinois.

Ford said, "As Chairman of the Restorative Justice Committee, this is a huge step in the right direction. Community members and advocacy groups have been fighting for the sealing law for ten years." Public Act 098-0142 adds eight felony convictions to the sealing law that represented the most common barriers: theft, retail theft, burglary, possession with intent to deliver, possession of stolen motor vehicle, deceptive practice and forgery. Sealing locks away, but does not destroy, certain criminal records. Sealing allows certain agencies, such as law enforcement, schools, park districts, child service, health care and banking to continue to have access to the records.

Public Act 098-0142 will provide possible relief for individuals looking for a chance to remove barriers because of their past criminal record. "This bill will allow those who would be tax burdens to become assets to the state by working and paying taxes. President Reagan once said 'The best social service is a job'. Parents will become independent and no longer be dependent on the state for social services, which cost the state billions each year," said Ford.

In an effort to inform people in the community about this new expansion of criminal record sealing, Ford has planned and will host a Second Chance Summit, scheduled for September 7, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UIC Forum, Rooms D and E, 725 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago. The Summit includes opportunities for organizations and presenters to meet and help people with criminal backgrounds. Individuals or organizations interested in the Second Chance Summit may email rj@lashawnford.com.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at (708) 445-3673, 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at (773) 378-5902 or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at (217) 782-5962, or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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