

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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## Ford's Bill Expunges Sealed Criminal Records

**CHICAGO** – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has introduced legislation and calls for the state of Illinois to make it possible to have certain sealed criminal records expunged. HB 3849 will be heard in Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 3 p.m. in Springfield. “People that can prove that they have turned their lives away from a life of crime and have proven that they are now reformed citizens deserve to have a pathway to a clean and fresh start in life,” said Ford.

HB 3849 provides that a person who has had their record sealed is eligible to petition the Prisoner Review Board and then the Circuit Court to expunge qualifying records that have been sealed 3 years after the petitioner is granted sealing if the petitioner has not been arrested or has not had one or more criminal convictions between the court granting sealing and the filing of the petition for relief.

“We continue to see a criminal justice system that favors the rich and well-connected while leaving the poor and disconnected hopeless,” said Ford. “The process will not be easy, but it will make it possible, and that's the American way. If this legislation passes, we will not only reduce recidivism, we will also make many more citizens productive in Illinois. Being convicted of a felony is a serious event with lifelong consequences. Becoming a convicted felon will have a long-lasting impact on a person's life and results in the loss of basic civil rights such as the right to sit on a jury. We need to pass House Bill 3849 to end the penalties that people continue to be burdened with well after they have served their time and even have had their records sealed. Expungement is the next step to freedom and full participation in our free society.”

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