



December 5, 2018

No More Mug Shots Unless Convicted

I recently passed through the Illinois House of Representatives House Bill 2367 that will allow expungement of cannabis convictions for criminal offenses that did not result in bodily harm or death to another person. HB 2367 allows those convicted of marijuana possession prior to the state's 2016 decriminalization law to petition a circuit court for expungement of their criminal record.

We would like to put people to work in Illinois and not have them worry about a conviction that probably shouldn't have been a felony in the first place. HB 2367 will allow those with a non-violent cannabis offense to now be able to obtain a good job and support their family.

Before 2016, anyone caught in possession of fewer than 10 grams of marijuana could face jail time. Since the change in the state law, those offenses are now civil infractions rather than criminal offenses.

Specifically, HB 2367 allows that a petitioner may petition the circuit court to expunge records of a conviction or plea of guilty for an offense under subsection (a) of Section 4 of the Cannabis Control Act or subsection (c) of Section 3.5 of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act before July 29, 2016, (the effective date of Public Act 99-697) if 3 years or more have passed since the petitioner has completed his or her sentence.

Now the bill moves to the Illinois Senate for consideration. Let's not convict people through the publication of mugshots before they have their chance in court.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District