



2023 Legislative Session: Second Chance Alliance

The 2023-2024 legislative session started in January 2023. Since the session started all deadlines by which law makers need to file their bill through the traditional method have passed. Additionally, the crossover deadline, the date by which a bill must pass out of one chamber into the other, has also passed. Crossover deadline was May 4, 2023.

The following bills filed during the 2023 Legislative Session survived crossover deadline:

- Senate Bill 339 - Modify Limited Driving Privilege/Criminal Laws: This bill will effectively end permanent suspensions for three or more moving violations and permanent suspensions for driving while license revoked convictions that occurred before 2015 for three or more convictions of driving while license revoked.
- Senate Bill 565 - Removing Barriers to Jobs and Housing: This bill will re-instate automated expunctions for certain dismissed and not guilty charges. It will also allow for the expunction of certain Breaking and Entering convictions after a 15-year waiting period.
- House Bill 778 - Prohibition on Disclosing Booking Photographs: This bill will prevent law enforcement agencies from openly disseminating booking information to third party companies. The bill allows law enforcement agencies to post booking information on their websites and apps. The bill sets penalties for third-party booking companies that do not remove and destroy booking information after receiving notice that the underlying charge was dismissed, ended in a not guilty, or was expunged.

The following bills include language in the bill, such as appropriation language, that may make the bill exempt from the crossover rules, and therefore still “alive.”

- House Bill 836 – Reentry Reform/Modification: This bill would have removed the 12 month waiting period required to become eligible for a Certificate of Relief. The bill also establishes the “Basic Needs Fund” to provide grants to state and communitybased entities for the purpose of providing stipends to individuals recently released from incarceration.***

- House Bill 888 - Remove Barriers to Employment from Court Debt: This bi-partisan bill would end suspensions for unpaid traffic-related fines and fees and for missing a court date. The bill would immediately re-instate licenses that are suspended solely for failure to appear or failure to pay. The bill will also allocate funds to the court to create a text service that would remind motorists about their court dates and monies owed.***

The following bills filed during the 2023 Legislative Session *did not survive* crossover deadline:

- House Bill 636 - Criminal Justice Debt Reform Act: This bill is a fines and fees bill that would address several issues. It would do many things, including end debt-based driver's license suspensions, make the community service fee waivable, and repeal the \$25 installment fee.
- Senate Bill 104 - Booking Photograph Privacy Act: This bill will clarify that booking photographs are not public records to be openly published, distributed, or released. The bill allows for booking photos to be published for criminal investigations related to a missing person or when the court finds it is necessary to fulfill immediate law enforcement needs.
- House Bill 668 - Study on Eliminating Unauthorized Substance Tax: This bill directs the Revenue Laws Study Committee to study the costs and benefits of eliminating the Unauthorized Substance Tax, the NC Drug Tax.
- Senate Bill 730 - Opt-Out of Ban on FNS/TANF Benefits: Under this bill, a person will no longer be barred from SNAP or TANF assistance due to a drug-related felony conviction and will be immediately eligible for food and cash assistance as all as they have completed the required drug treatment program.
- Senate Bill 583 – Housing Studies/Barriers and Homelessness: This bill directs the Legislative Research Commission to study the issue of housing discrimination and housing barriers for individuals with criminal records in the State.
- House Bill 708 – Clarify Felony/Voting Without Rights Restored: This bill would change the law to clarify that a person can only be charges with felony voting without being restored the rights of citizenship (i.e. voting while on felony probation, parole, or post-release) if they vote **knowing** that they are disqualified.