

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Criminal Justice Committee

BILL: SB 940

INTRODUCER: Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Juvenile Diversion Expunction

DATE: January 10, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Dugger	Cannon	CJ	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	BC	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

SB 940 will allow a youth who has been arrested for a felony, with numerous specified exceptions, to have his or her nonjudicial arrest record expunged upon successful completion of a prearrest, postarrest, or teen court diversion program. (Currently only nonviolent misdemeanor arrests are eligible to be expunged under the juvenile diversion expunction statute.) The bill also makes it possible for a youth who meets the statutory requirements to now be able to get an expunction for a misdemeanor domestic violence arrest.

This bill substantially amends section 943.0582 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Youth who successfully complete a prearrest, postarrest, or teen court diversion program after being arrested for a nonviolent misdemeanor are eligible to have their arrest expunged, providing they have no other past criminal history.¹ A nonviolent misdemeanor includes simple assault or battery when the expunction process is approved in writing by the local state attorney. A domestic violence arrest is not eligible for expunction. Receiving a juvenile diversion expunction does not prohibit a youth from requesting a regular sealing or expunction under s. 943.0585 or s. 943.059, F.S., if he or she is otherwise eligible.²

The expunged arrest record is available to law enforcement only under certain enumerated circumstances, such as when it is needed to determine eligibility for the diversion program, when

¹ Section 943.0582, F.S.

² *Id.*

a youth is seeking law enforcement employment, or when it is needed for a criminal justice investigation. Local law enforcement records are treated as if they have been sealed (only available to limited entities for limited purposes³).

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is required to expunge the nonjudicial arrest record of a successful participant in a prearrest, postarrest, or teen court diversion program if the youth does the following: submits a timely filed application⁴ signed by the parents or by the minor if he or she is of age by then; submits a statement by the state attorney that the youth has successfully completed a prearrest or postarrest diversion program that was limited to minors arrested for a nonviolent misdemeanor (excluding domestic violence) who have not otherwise been charged with or found to have committed any criminal offense; participates in a diversion program that allows an expunction to occur; and provides that he or she has not been charged with or found to have committed a prior criminal offense.⁵ The application must be submitted no later than six months after completion of the diversion program.

The FDLE is authorized to charge a \$75 processing fee for each juvenile diversion expunction request, but the executive director can waive the fee.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 940 allows a youth who has been arrested for a felony, with numerous specified exceptions, to have his or her nonjudicial arrest record expunged upon successful completion of a prearrest, postarrest, or teen court diversion program. (Currently only nonviolent misdemeanor arrests are eligible to be expunged under the juvenile diversion expunction statute.)

The felony offenses that will not be eligible for expunction under the bill include the following offenses that are also prohibited from being sealed or expunged under the regular sealing and expunction statutes:⁷

- Sexual misconduct with developmentally disabled clients, mental health patients, or forensic clients;
- Luring or enticing a child;
- Sexual battery;
- Procuring a person under 18 years for prostitution;
- Lewd, lascivious, or indecent assault upon a child;
- Lewd or lascivious offenses committed on an elderly or disabled person;
- Voyeurism;
- Communications fraud;
- Sexual performance by a child;
- Unlawful distribution of obscene materials to a minor;
- Unlawful activities involving computer pornography;

³ See s. 943.059(4), F.S.

⁴ Within 6 months of completing the program.

⁵ Section 943.0582(3), F.S.

⁶ Section 943.0582(4), F.S.

⁷ Sections 943.0585 and 943.059, F.S.

- Selling or buying minors for the purpose of engaging in sex trafficking or prostitution, or sexually explicit conduct;
- Offenses by public officers and employees;
- Drug trafficking;
- Other dangerous crimes such as arson, aggravated assault or battery, illegal use of explosives, child abuse or aggravated child abuse, elderly or disabled abuse, aggravated elderly or disabled abuse, aircraft piracy, kidnapping, sexual battery, homicide, manslaughter, sexual activity with a child, robbery, home invasion robbery, carjacking, stalking and aggravated stalking, domestic violence, terrorism, manufacturing controlled substances, and burglary⁸; and
- Any violation specified as a predicate offense for sexual predator or sexual offender registration.⁹

The bill also deletes the provision prohibiting a misdemeanor domestic violence arrest from being expunged under this statute, making it possible for a youth who meets the statutory requirements to now be able to get an expunction for a misdemeanor domestic violence arrest.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Youth now eligible to have a felony arrest record expunged under the bill will be required to pay a \$75 processing fee, unless it is waived by the executive director of the FDLE.

⁸ Section 907.041, F.S.

⁹ See ss. 775.21 and 943.0435, F.S.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The FDLE expects minimal increase in revenue and costs from the slight increase in the number of juveniles who will become eligible for the juvenile diversion expunction under the bill.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

A title amendment is recommended to change the “Department of Corrections” to the “Department of Law Enforcement.”

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.