By Senator Smith

2016274 31-00183-16

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to criminal history records of juveniles; creating s. 943.05825, F.S.; providing for the automatic sealing of records of juvenile offenses upon completion of sentence; providing exceptions; defining terms; providing for the effect of sealing; providing for application of other specified provisions relating to expunction and sealing of records; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 943.05825, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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943.05825 Automatic sealing of juvenile records.-

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(1) Notwithstanding any other law, the criminal history record of any offenses committed by a juvenile must be automatically sealed upon the juvenile's completion of all sentences for those offenses, except for the record of any offense for which the juvenile was:

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(a) Transferred to the adult system under s. 985.557, indicted under s. 985.56, waived into the adult system under s. 985.556; or

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(b) Transferred to the adult system but sentenced to the juvenile system under s. 985.565.

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(2) As used in this section, the term "sealed" or "sealing" has the same meaning as described in s. 943.059, excluding s. 943.059(4)(a), except that the criminal history record of a person whose record is sealed pursuant to this section shall be

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made available only to criminal justice agencies for the purpose of determining eligibility for prearrest, postarrest, or teen court diversion programs; if the record is sought as part of a criminal investigation; or if the subject of the record is a candidate for employment with a criminal justice agency. For all other purposes, a person whose record is sealed under this section may lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge the arrest and the charge covered by the sealed record.

(3) Sealing granted under this section does not prevent the juvenile who receives such relief from petitioning for the expunction or sealing of a later criminal history record as provided in ss. 943.0585 and 943.059 if the juvenile is otherwise eligible under those sections.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.