



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, VP, Government Affairs
DATE: September 19, 2023
RE: Support H.B. 689 – Clean Slate expansion

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber to express support for H.B. 689 to expand Pennsylvania's Clean Slate law, which is scheduled to be considered in Committee today.

Pennsylvania employers of all sizes and industries continue to report difficulty finding individuals to fill open positions. This workforce crisis is holding back Pennsylvania's economy and employers are looking to lawmakers to advance policies that encourage people into the workforce.

The PA Chamber has supported Clean Slate as one part of a broad workforce strategy. The first iteration, Act 56 of 2018, provided that Pennsylvanians with old criminal records for certain nonviolent summary and misdemeanor offenses could have those records automatically sealed if they remained crime-free. H.B. 689 would expand Clean Slate, including to certain nonviolent felonies if the individual has remained crime-free for 10 years. The law also includes key liability protections for employers, which addressed legitimate concerns raised by the business community.

Pennsylvanians who have benefitted from Clean Slate report that it encourages people to reenter the workforce, seek employment, and apply for jobs and promotions. We believe those expressing these sentiments. This population represents a potentially vast pool of under-tapped talent in Pennsylvania, and we urge support for H.B. 689 to help facilitate their employment.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.