

By: Representative Burnett

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 56

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-71, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE EXPUNGEMENT FOR A CONVICTION OF EMBEZZLEMENT BY A  
3 STATE OFFICER OR COUNTY OFFICER, OR AN OFFICER OF ANY CITY, TOWN  
4 OR VILLAGE 14 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF ALL TERMS FOR THE  
5 CONVICTION OF SUCH CRIME; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-19-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 99-19-71. (1) Any person who has been convicted of a  
10 misdemeanor that is not a traffic violation, and who is a first  
11 offender, may petition the justice, county, circuit or municipal  
12 court in which the conviction was had for an order to expunge any  
13 such conviction from all public records.

14 (2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this \* \* \* section,  
15 a person who has been convicted of a felony and who has paid all  
16 criminal fines and costs of court imposed in the sentence of  
17 conviction may petition the court in which the conviction was had  
18 for an order to expunge one (1) conviction from all public records  
19 five (5) years after the successful completion of all terms and



20 conditions of the sentence for the conviction upon a hearing as  
21 determined in the discretion of the court; however, a person is  
22 not eligible to expunge a felony classified as:

23 (i) A crime of violence as provided in Section  
24 97-3-2;

25 (ii) Arson, first degree as provided in Sections  
26 97-17-1 and 97-17-3;

27 (iii) Trafficking in controlled substances as  
28 provided in Section 41-29-139;

29 (iv) A third, fourth or subsequent offense DUI as  
30 provided in Section 63-11-30(2)(c) and (2)(d);

31 (v) Felon in possession of a firearm as provided  
32 in Section 97-37-5;

33 (vi) Failure to register as a sex offender as  
34 provided in Section 45-33-33;

35 (vii) Voyeurism as provided in Section 97-29-61;

36 (viii) Witness intimidation as provided in Section  
37 97-9-113;

38 (ix) Abuse, neglect or exploitation of a  
39 vulnerable person as provided in Section 43-47-19; or

40 (x) Embezzlement as provided in Sections 97-11-25  
41 and 97-23-19.

42 A person is eligible for only one (1) felony expunction under  
43 this paragraph. For the purposes of this section, the terms "one  
44 (1) conviction" and "one (1) felony expunction" mean and include



45 all convictions that arose from a common nucleus of operative  
46 facts as determined in the discretion of the court.

47 (b) The petitioner shall give ten (10) days' written  
48 notice to the district attorney before any hearing on the  
49 petition. In all cases, the court wherein the petition is filed  
50 may grant the petition if the court determines, on the record or  
51 in writing, that the applicant is rehabilitated from the offense  
52 which is the subject of the petition. In those cases where the  
53 court denies the petition, the findings of the court in this  
54 respect shall be identified specifically and not generally.

55 (c) A person who has been convicted of felony  
56 embezzlement under Section 97-23-19 or 97-23-25 and who has paid  
57 all criminal fines and costs of court imposed in the sentence of  
58 conviction may petition the court in which the conviction was had  
59 for an order to expunge one (1) conviction from all public records  
60 fourteen (14) years after the successful completion of all terms  
61 and conditions of the sentence for the conviction upon a hearing  
62 as determined in the discretion of the court. For purposes of  
63 this section, the term "one (1) conviction" and "one (1) felony  
64 expunction" means the same as provided in subsection (2)(a) of  
65 this section.

66 (3) Upon entering an order of expunction under this section,  
67 a nonpublic record thereof shall be retained by the Mississippi  
68 Criminal Information Center solely for the purpose of determining  
69 whether, in subsequent proceedings, the person is a first



70 offender. The order of expunction shall not preclude a district  
71 attorney's office from retaining a nonpublic record thereof for  
72 law enforcement purposes only. The existence of an order of  
73 expunction shall not preclude an employer from asking a  
74 prospective employee if the employee has had an order of  
75 expunction entered on his behalf. The effect of the expunction  
76 order shall be to restore the person, in the contemplation of the  
77 law, to the status he occupied before any arrest or indictment for  
78 which convicted. No person as to whom an expunction order has  
79 been entered shall be held thereafter under any provision of law  
80 to be guilty of perjury or to have otherwise given a false  
81 statement by reason of his failure to recite or acknowledge such  
82 arrest, indictment or conviction in response to any inquiry made  
83 of him for any purpose other than the purpose of determining, in  
84 any subsequent proceedings under this section, whether the person  
85 is a first offender. A person as to whom an order has been  
86 entered, upon request, shall be required to advise the court, in  
87 camera, of the previous conviction and expunction in any legal  
88 proceeding wherein the person has been called as a prospective  
89 juror. The court shall thereafter and before the selection of the  
90 jury advise the attorneys representing the parties of the previous  
91 conviction and expunction.

92 (4) Upon petition therefor, a justice, county, circuit or  
93 municipal court shall expunge the record of any case in which an  
94 arrest was made, the person arrested was released and the case was



95 dismissed or the charges were dropped or there was no disposition  
96 of such case, or the person was found not guilty at trial.

97 (5) No public official is eligible for expunction under this  
98 section for any conviction related to his official duties.

99 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
100 and after July 1, 2024.

