~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

March 31, 2010

**S. 912**

Introduced by Senator Land

S. Printed 3/31/10--S. [SEC 4/1/10 3:38 PM]

Read the first time January 12, 2010.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 912) to amend Section 17‑22‑950 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 36 of 2009, relating to procedures for expungement of criminal charges which have been brought, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Section 17-1-40 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 17-1-40. (A) A person, who after being charged with a criminal offense and the charge is discharged, proceedings against the person are dismissed, or the person is found not guilty of the charge, the arrest and booking record, files, mug shots, and fingerprints of the person must be destroyed and no evidence of the record pertaining to the charge may be retained by any municipal, county, or state law enforcement agency. Provided, however, that local and state detention and correctional facilities may retain booking records, identifying documentation and materials, and other institutional reports and files under seal, on all persons who have been processed, detained, or incarcerated, for a period not to exceed three years from the date of the expungement order to manage their statistical and professional information needs and, where necessary, to defend such facilities during litigation proceedings except when an action, complaint, or inquiry has been initiated. Information retained by a local or state detention or correctional facility as permitted under this section after an expungement order has been issued is not a public document and is exempt from disclosure. Such information only may be disclosed by judicial order, pursuant to a subpoena filed in a civil action, or as needed during litigation proceedings. A person who otherwise intentionally retains the arrest and booking record, files, mug shots, fingerprints, or any evidence of the record pertaining to a charge discharged or dismissed pursuant to this section is guilty of contempt of court.

(B) A municipal, county, or state agency may not collect a fee for the destruction of records pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(C) This section does not apply to a person who is charged with a violation of Title 50, Title 56, an enactment pursuant to the authority of counties and municipalities as provided by Titles 4 and 5, or any other state criminal offense, if the person is not fingerprinted for the violation.

(D) the State Law Enforcement Division is authorized to promulgate regulations that allow for the electronic transmission of information pursuant to this section. ”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies retroactively. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

C. BRADLEY HUTTO for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The State Law Enforcement Division and the Judicial Department indicate that this bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or on federal and/or other funds.

*Approved By:*

Harry Bell

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 17‑22‑950 OF THE 1976 CODE, AS ADDED BY ACT 36 OF 2009, RELATING TO PROCEDURES FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL CHARGES WHICH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN SUMMARY COURT, TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COMPLETED EXPUNGEMENT ORDER BE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF COURT.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 17‑22‑90(A) of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 36 of 2009, is amended to read:

“(A) When criminal charges are brought in a summary court and the accused person is found not guilty or if the charges are dismissed or nolle prossed, pursuant to Section 17‑1‑40, the presiding judge of the summary court, at no cost to the accused person, immediately shall issue an order to expunge the criminal records of the accused person unless the dismissal of the charges occurs at a preliminary hearing or unless the accused person has charges pending in summary court and a court of general sessions and such charges arise out of the same course of events. This expungement must occur no sooner than the appeal expiration date and no later than thirty days after the appeal expiration date. Upon issuance of the order, the judge of the summary court or a member of the summary court staff must coordinate with SLED to confirm that the criminal charge is statutorily appropriate for expungement; obtain and verify the presence of all necessary signatures; ~~file the completed expungement order with the clerk of court;~~ provide copies of the completed expungement order to all governmental agencies which must receive the order including, but not limited to, the arresting law enforcement agency, the detention facility or jail, the solicitor’s office, the magistrates or municipal court where the arrest warrant originated, the magistrates or municipal court that was involved in any way in the criminal process of the charge sought to be expunged, and SLED. The judge of the summary court or a member of the summary court staff also must provide a copy of the completed expungement order to the applicant or his retained counsel. The prosecuting agency or appropriate law enforcement agency may file an objection to a summary court expungement. If an objection is filed by the prosecuting agency or law enforcement agency, that expungement then must be heard by the judge of a general sessions court. The prosecuting agency’s or the appropriate law enforcement agency’s reason for objecting must be that the:

(1) accused person has other charges pending;

(2) prosecuting agency or the appropriate law enforcement agency believes that the evidence in the case needs to be preserved; or

(3) accused person’s charges were dismissed as a part of a plea agreement.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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