Bill Comparison Summary of

House File 2576-6/Senate File UEH2576-1

Prepared by:

House Research and Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis

April 30, 2014

| Sec. |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Classification of certain data. Keeps an expunged record private if the Commissioner of Human Services disqualifies an applicant based on the expunged record. | No comparable provision. |
|  | Disqualification that is rescinded or set aside. Prohibits the Commissioner of Human Services from notifying an employer of an expunged criminal record when the Commissioner disqualifies an applicant based on the expunged offense. | No comparable provision. |
|  | Expungement. Amends the juvenile records expungement statute to give courts authority to expunge all records relating to the arrest and delinquency proceedings, rather than just the adjudication of delinquency. This is in response to the decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court in the *J.J.P.* case, 831 N.W.2d 260 (Minn. 2013), in which it interpreted the statute as applicable only to the adjudication record and not additional documents, such as arrest and investigative records. The most significant effect of this amendment would be to give courts authority to expunge these delinquency records when held by executive branch entities. In addition, the standard to be applied by the court is more clearly delineated and a list of factors to be considered is included.Juvenile records expunged prior to the effective date of this act may not be shared or exchanged. For juvenile records expunged after the effective date of this act, sharing of records between criminal justice agencies is authorized, consistent with the new provisions governing adult records in section 12, and the statute governing appeals of adult expungements would apply.Includes January 1, 2015 effective date. | Section 1 is nearly identical. House refers to expungement of all records relating to “delinquency” versus Senate “the arrest and delinquency proceedings.”Doesn’t include restriction on opening or sharing records expunged before effective date.No special effective date. |
|  | Deletion of expunged records. Amends the law governing business screening services to require a business screening service that knows a criminal record has been sealed, expunged, or is the subject of a pardon to promptly delete the record. While this may be implied under current law, it is not explicitly stated (in contrast, there is specific language in Minnesota Statutes, section 504B.241, subdivision 4, governing residential tenant screening services).Includes January 1, 2015 effective date. | Section 2 is identical.No special effective date. |
|  | **Evictions.** Amends the eviction law to explicitly give the court authority to expunge records relating to the action at the time judgment is entered or after that time in cases where the defendant prevailed. The effect of this amendment is to allow the defendant to move for an expungement as part of the eviction proceeding, rather than bringing a separate petition or motion under Minnesota Statutes, section 484.014, which is the general law governing expungement of eviction records.Includes January 1, 2015 effective date. | Section 3 is nearly identical. Specifically refers to substantive law governing expungement of eviction records and expungements after judgment is entered could occur upon motion of the defendant.No special effective date. |
|  | **Statutory expungement.** Amends the general law governing the circumstances under which criminal records may be expunged. Under current law, an expungement petition may be brought only when authorized under law. The grounds for an order under Minnesota Statutes, section 609A.02, include certain controlled substance offenses, juveniles prosecuted as adults, and criminal proceedings resolved in favor of the petitioner. Under paragraph (a), three new categories of criminal proceedings or convictions are added:* petitioner has successfully completed the terms of a diversion program or stay of adjudication and has not been charged with a new crime for at least *two* years since completion of the program or stay of adjudication;
* petitioner was convicted of or received a stayed sentence for a petty misdemeanor, misdemeanor, or gross misdemeanor and has not been convicted of a new crime for at least *five* years since discharge of the sentence; or
* petitioner was convicted of or received a stayed sentence for a felony violation of an offense listed in paragraph (b) and has not been convicted of a new crime for at least *eight* years since discharge of the sentence.

Paragraph (b) lists the felonies that would be eligible for expungement. It includes most offenses that are a severity level 1 or 2 under the Sentencing Guidelines, other than (1) certain person offenses and (2) those that are crimes of violence for purposes of permit to carry disqualifications and codified in chapter 609.Until July 15, 2015, paragraph (c) prohibits the expungement of stayed sentences in cases of sexual or domestic abuse, stalking, and harassment.Includes January 1, 2015 effective date. | Section 4 is similar:Senate requires shorter periods of crime-free behavior before a person is eligible to seek an expungement.* one year since completion of program or stay of adjudication
* three years since discharge of sentence
* five years since discharge of sentence

Senate includes more felonies that are eligible for expungement:* sale of synthetic cannabinoids
* contempt
* deprivation of custodial or parental rights
* nonsupport of spouse or child
* prostitution crime in school or park zone
* fleeing a police officer or aiding offender to avoid arrest
* identity theft or receiving stolen goods
* furnishing a dangerous weapon or removing or altering a serial number on firearm

No comparable provision.No special effective date. |
|  | **Petitionless expungement.**  Provides for expungement without the filing of a petition in certain cases where the prosecutor agrees to the sealing of a criminal record, unless the court determines that the interests of public safety in keeping the record outweigh the disadvantages to the subject. It would apply to the categories of persons authorized to seek an expungement under Minnesota Statutes, section 609A.02, subdivision 3 (see section 6). A victim notification requirement is included.Includes January 1, 2015 effective date. | Section 5 is identical except for effective date. |
|  | **Petition; filing fee.** Clarifies that the expungement petition filing fee waiver is not extended to the new categories of offenses eligible for expungement. | Section 6 is identical. |
|  | **Nature of remedy; standard.** Amends the law governing the standards for granting an expungement. The general rule under current law is that the petitioner has the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that expungement would yield a benefit to the petitioner commensurate with the disadvantages to the public and public safety of sealing the record and burdening the court and other authorities. However, in cases where the proceedings were resolved in favor of the petitioner, the burden of proof switches to the agency or jurisdiction whose records would be affected. This amendment would add cases where the petitioner has successfully completed the terms of a diversion program to the situations where the agency has the burden of proof. For the other new categories in section 6, the petitioner would continue to have the burden of proof. This section also includes additional factors to be considered by the court in making its determination. New language clarifies that a court may order an expunged record sealed, regardless of whether it would otherwise be public law enforcement or criminal history data or public under other law.Existence of expunged record must be disclosed as part of mandated background check.Prohibits expunged records from being introduced in civil litigation against an employer or landlord for alleged misconduct of an employee or tenant, if the records were expunged before the occurrence giving rise to the civil action.Includes January 1, 2015 effective date. | Section 7 is similar.House includes more factors for the court to consider.No comparable provision.No comparable provision.No special effective date. |
|  | **Order when context and circumstances of the underlying crime indicate a nexus between the criminal record to be expunged and person’s status as a crime victim.** Creates special protections for persons who have a record expunged and the person is deemed a crime victim and there is a nexus between the expunged record and the person’s status as a crime victim. | No comparable provision. |
|  | **Limitations of statutory expungement.** Establishes that current standards for accessing expunged records apply to records expunged prior to January 1, 2015. | No comparable provision. |
|  | **Limitations on statutory expungement (*prospective)*.** Amends the law governing access to records expunged on or after January 1, 2015. Except for in certain cases where a person was found not guilty, the new language allows the exchange of expunged records between criminal justice agencies, similar to the current authority for the exchange of law enforcement data under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.82, subdivision 24. This replaces and expands current law, which authorizes opening an expunged record for a criminal investigation, prosecution, or sentencing but requires an ex parte court order.Under current law, if law enforcement, prosecution, or corrections authorities request access to a record subject to an expungement order, they must be informed of the existence of the record and the right to obtain access to it with a court order. This language is modified, consistent with the new provision allowing the exchange of expunged records, to require an agency or jurisdiction subject to an order to maintain the record in a manner that provides access by a criminal justice agency but informs the recipient that the record is sealed. If a request is made by the commissioner of human services, the commissioner must be notified of the existence of the record and of the right to obtain access to it. Language is added explicitly stating that an expunged record remains subject to the expungement order in the hands of the person receiving it.See **House section 9,** which requires disclosure of existence of expunged record, but not contents, for statutorily mandated background check.No comparable provision.**Effective date.** Applies to records expunged on or after January 1, 2015. | Section 8 is similar.Allows an expunged record of a conviction to be opened for purposes of a background check required under section 122A.18, subdivision 8 (licensing of teachers and other school professionals), unless the expungement order is directed specifically to the licensing authority.Paragraph (d) requires a criminal justice agency that receives an expunged record to destroy the record when the investigation becomes inactive or it is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was obtained.No special effective date or application provision. |
|  | **Distribution and confirmation of expungement order.** Expands the current requirements related to distribution of expungement orders to require court administrators to notify petitioners of the entities that received the order and to require those entities to send a letter to the petitioner confirming that the record is expunged. Data on the petitioners mentioned in these letters is classified as private data. | Section 9 is identical except for the effective date. |
|  | No comparable provision. | Section 10 includes a civil remedy for individuals whose expunged record is opened or exchanged in a manner not authorized by law. The remedy under the Data Practices Act would apply, which includes damages and reasonable attorney fees and, for willful violations, exemplary damages of $1,000 to $15,000. |
|  | **Agency compliance.** Requires criminal justice agencies to comply with section 12 by January 1, 2016. | No comparable provision. |
|  | **Appropriation.**  **Subd. 1. Public safety.** Appropriates $600,000 in FY15 to the BCA. **Subd. 2. Human services.** Appropriates $82,000 in FY15 to Commissioner of Human Services. | See UEH3172-2, article 5, appropriating a matching $600,000 to public safety and $98,000 to human services. |