



March 9, 2022

Via E-Mail Delivery

Representative Zack Stephenson, Chair
509 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tim O'Driscoll, Republican Lead
237 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee:

On behalf of the Justice Action Network, the nation's largest bipartisan criminal justice reform organization, I am writing in support of legislation that establishes a pre-clearance process for individuals who seek to apply for an occupational license in Minnesota.

SF3036/HF3403, authored by Senator Mark Koran and Representative Zack Stephenson, requires state agencies and boards to establish a pre-clearance process to aid potential applicants in finding out if anything in their criminal background would prevent them from holding the occupational license.

Since 2015, 38 states and Washington, D.C. have increased transparency in licensing for individuals with criminal records. In 19 states and Washington, D.C., individuals with criminal records have a pre-clearance process to apply to state licensors at any time prior to enrolling into required education or training programs. By enacting this legislation, Minnesota will join other states in establishing a pre-clearance process.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact our organization's government relations representatives, Melissa Reed at melissa@parkstreetpublic.com or Chas Anderson at chas@parkstreetpublic.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jenna Bottler
Deputy Director, the Justice Action Network