

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 1518**

Short Title: Require Payment of Restitution for Expunction. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Eddins, Holliman (Primary Sponsors); B. Allen, Gillespie, Harrell, Justus, Pate, A. Williams, K. Williams, Glazier, Hilton, and McLawhorn.

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Referred to: Judiciary IV.

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May 19, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT REQUIRING A PERSON TO PAY ANY OUTSTANDING RESTITUTION ORDERS PRIOR TO THE EXPUNCTION OF THE PERSON'S CRIMINAL RECORD.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 15A-145 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 15A-145. Expunction of records for first offenders under the age of 18 at the time of conviction of misdemeanor; expunction of certain other misdemeanors.**

(a) Whenever any person who has (i) not yet attained the age of 18 years and has not previously been convicted of any felony, or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, under the laws of the United States, the laws of this State or any other state, pleads guilty to or is guilty of a misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, or (ii) not yet attained the age of 21 years and has not previously been convicted of any felony, or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, under the laws of the United States, the laws of this State or any other state, pleads guilty to or is guilty of a misdemeanor possession of alcohol pursuant to G.S. 18B-302(b)(1), he may file a petition in the court where he was convicted for expunction of the misdemeanor from his criminal record. The petition cannot be filed earlier than two years after the date of the conviction or any period of probation, whichever occurs later, and the petition shall contain, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) An affidavit by the petitioner that he has been of good behavior for the two-year period since the date of conviction of the misdemeanor in question and has not been convicted of any felony, or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, under the laws of the United States or the laws of this State or any other state.

- 1           (2) Verified affidavits of two persons who are not related to the petitioner  
2           or to each other by blood or marriage, that they know the character and  
3           reputation of the petitioner in the community in which he lives and that  
4           his character and reputation are good.
- 5           (3) A statement that the petition is a motion in the cause in the case  
6           wherein the petitioner was convicted.
- 7           (4) Affidavits of the clerk of superior court, chief of police, where  
8           appropriate, and sheriff of the county in which the petitioner was  
9           convicted and, if different, the county of which the petitioner is a  
10          resident, showing that the petitioner has not been convicted of a felony  
11          or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation under the laws of this  
12          State at any time prior to the conviction for the misdemeanor in  
13          question or during the two-year period following that conviction.
- 14          (5) An affidavit by the petitioner that no restitution orders or civil  
15          judgments representing amounts ordered for restitution entered against  
16          him are outstanding.

17          The petition shall be served upon the district attorney of the court wherein the case  
18          was tried resulting in conviction. The district attorney shall have 10 days thereafter in  
19          which to file any objection thereto and shall be duly notified as to the date of the  
20          hearing of the petition.

21          The judge to whom the petition is presented is authorized to call upon a probation  
22          officer for any additional investigation or verification of the petitioner's conduct during  
23          the two-year period that he deems desirable.

24          (b) If the court, after hearing, finds that the petitioner had remained of good  
25          behavior and been free of conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, other than a traffic  
26          violation, for two years from the date of conviction of the misdemeanor in question, the  
27          petitioner has no outstanding restitution orders or civil judgments representing amounts  
28          ordered for restitution entered against him, and (i) petitioner was not 18 years old at the  
29          time of the conviction in question, or (ii) petitioner was not 21 years old at the time of  
30          the conviction of possession of alcohol pursuant to G.S. 18B-302(b)(1), it shall order  
31          that such person be restored, in the contemplation of the law, to the status he occupied  
32          before such arrest or indictment or information. No person as to whom such order has  
33          been entered shall be held thereafter under any provision of any laws to be guilty of  
34          perjury or otherwise giving a false statement by reason of his failure to recite or  
35          acknowledge such arrest, or indictment, information, or trial, or response to any inquiry  
36          made of him for any purpose.

37          (c) The court shall also order that the said misdemeanor conviction be expunged  
38          from the records of the court, and direct all law-enforcement agencies bearing record of  
39          the same to expunge their records of the conviction. The clerk shall forward a certified  
40          copy of the order to the sheriff, chief of police, or other arresting agency. The sheriff,  
41          chief or head of such other arresting agency shall then transmit the copy of the order  
42          with a form supplied by the State Bureau of Investigation to the State Bureau of  
43          Investigation, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward the order to the  
44          Federal Bureau of Investigation.

1 (d) The clerk of superior court in each county in North Carolina shall, as soon as  
2 practicable after each term of court in his county, file with the Administrative Office of  
3 the Courts, the names of those persons granted a discharge under the provisions of this  
4 section, and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall maintain a confidential file  
5 containing the names of persons granted conditional discharges. The information  
6 contained in such file shall be disclosed only to judges of the General Court of Justice of  
7 North Carolina for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person charged with an  
8 offense has been previously granted a discharge.

9 (e) A person who files a petition for expunction of a criminal record under this  
10 section must pay the clerk of superior court a fee of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) at the  
11 time the petition is filed. Fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the  
12 General Fund. This subsection does not apply to petitions filed by an indigent."

13 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004, and applies to  
14 petitions for expunction filed on or after that date.