

Second Chance for Young Offenders

Written by Dave Blanks
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Adults convicted of nonviolent felonies at ages 16 and 17 could have those crimes removed from their records in a bill recommended Tuesday by a state Senate committee.

The bill lays out the method in which supporters envision offenders who made a one-time youthful mistake can have their convictions removed so that it would no longer show up in their criminal background checks.

An applicant could seek expunction two years after the conviction date or completion of punishment, whichever is later. A petition filed would contain affidavits of the defendant's good character, proof that the person has completed 100 hours of community service and has been convicted of no other non-traffic crimes.

The local district attorney also would have 30 days to file any objections before a judge makes the decision.