## AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 20, 2021 AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2021 AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 2021 AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 3, 2021

#### **SENATE BILL**

No. 731

Introduced by Senators Durazo and Bradford (Coauthors: Senators Skinner and Wiener) (Coauthors: Assembly Members Carrillo, Cristina Garcia, Gipson, Kalra, Lee, Medina, and Stone)

February 19, 2021

An act to amend Sections 851.93, 1203.41, <del>1203.425</del>, and <del>11105</del> *and 1203.425* of the Penal Code, relating to criminal records.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 731, as amended, Durazo. Criminal records: relief.

Existing law authorizes a defendant who was sentenced to a county jail for the commission of a felony and who has met specified criteria to petition to withdraw their plea of guilty or nolo contendere and enter a plea of not guilty after the completion of their sentence, as specified. Existing law requires the court to dismiss the accusations or information against the defendant and release them from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense, except as specified.

This bill would make this relief available to a defendant who has been convicted of any felony.

Commencing July 1, 2022, existing law requires the Department of Justice, on a monthly basis, to review the records in the statewide criminal justice databases and identify persons who are eligible for specified automatic conviction and records of arrest relief without

requiring the filing of a petition or motion. Under existing law, a person is eligible for arrest record relief if they were arrested on or after January 1, 2021, and the arrest was for a misdemeanor and the charge was dismissed or criminal proceedings have not been initiated within one year after the arrest, or the arrest was for a felony punishable in the county jail and criminal proceedings have not been initiated within 3 years after the date of the arrest. Under existing law, a person is eligible for automatic conviction record relief if, on or after January 1, 2021, they were sentenced to probation, and completed it without revocation, or if they were convicted of an infraction or a misdemeanor, and other criteria are met, as specified.

This bill would generally make this arrest record relief available to a person who has been arrested for a felony, including a felony punishable in the state prison, as specified. The bill would additionally make this conviction record relief available for a defendant-convicted convicted, on or after January 1, 2005, of a felony for which they did not complete probation without revocation if the defendant appears to have completed all terms of incarceration, probation, mandatory supervision, postrelease supervision, and-parole. parole, and a period of four years has elapsed during which the defendant was not convicted of a new offense, except as specified.

Existing law directs the Attorney General to furnish state summary eriminal history information, as defined, to specified individuals, organizations, and agencies when necessary for the execution of official duties or to implement a statute or regulation. Existing law also directs the Attorney General to disseminate federal criminal history information when specifically authorized and upon a showing of compelling need. Existing law makes the unauthorized furnishing of criminal history information a crime.

Commencing July 1, 2022, this bill would require the Attorney General to exclude records of arrest and conviction that were granted relief under specified provisions from state summary criminal history information, except as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes-no.

#### The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 851.93 of the Penal Code is amended to 2 read:

851.93. (a) (1) On a monthly basis, the Department of Justice
shall review the records in the statewide criminal justice databases,

5 and based on information in the state summary criminal history 6 repository, shall identify persons with records of arrest that meet

7 the criteria set forth in paragraph (2) and are eligible for arrest 8 record relief.

9 (2) A person is eligible for relief pursuant to this section, if the 10 arrest occurred on or after January 1, 2021, and meets any of the 11 following conditions:

12 (A) The arrest was for a misdemeanor offense and the charge13 was dismissed.

14 (B) The arrest was for a misdemeanor offense, there is no 15 indication that criminal proceedings have been initiated, at least

16 one calendar year has elapsed since the date of the arrest, and no

17 conviction occurred, or the arrestee was acquitted of any charges18 that arose, from that arrest.

19 (C) (i) The arrest was for a felony offense not described in 20 clause (ii), there is no indication that criminal proceedings have 21 been initiated, at least three calendar years have elapsed since the 22 date of the arrest, and no conviction occurred, or the arrestee was 23 acquitted of any charges arising, from that arrest.

(ii) If the arrest was for an offense punishable by imprisonmentin the state prison for eight years or more or by imprisonment

26 pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 for eight years or more,

27 there is no indication that criminal proceedings have been initiated,

28 at least six years have elapsed since the date of the arrest, and no

29 conviction occurred, or the arrestee was acquitted of any charges30 arising, from that arrest.

31 (D) The person successfully completed any of the following,32 relating to that arrest:

33 (i) A prefiling diversion program, as defined in subdivision (d)

34 of Section 851.87, administered by a prosecuting attorney in lieu

35 of filing an accusatory pleading.

(ii) A drug diversion program administered by a superior court
 pursuant to Section 1000.5, or a deferred entry of judgment
 program pursuant to Section 1000 or 1000.8.

4 (iii) A pretrial diversion program, pursuant to Section 1000.4.

5 (iv) A diversion program, pursuant to Section 1001.9.

6 (v) A diversion program described in Chapter 2.8 (commencing

7 with Section 1001.20), Chapter 2.8A (commencing with Section
8 1001.35), Chapter 2.81 (commencing with Section 1001.40),
9 Chapter 2.9 (commencing with Section 1001.50), Chapter 2.9A

10 (commencing with Section 1001.60), Chapter 2.9B (commencing

11 with Section 1001.70), Chapter 2.9C (commencing with Section

12 1001.80), Chapter 2.9D (commencing with Section 1001.81), or

13 Chapter 2.92 (commencing with Section 1001.85), of Title 6.

(b) (1) The department shall grant relief to a person identified
pursuant to subdivision (a), without requiring a petition or motion
by a party for that relief if the relevant information is present in

17 the department's electronic records.

(2) The state summary criminal history information shall
include, directly next to or below the entry or entries regarding the
person's arrest record, a note stating "arrest relief granted," listing
the date that the department granted relief, and this section. This

22 note shall be included in all statewide criminal databases with a

23 record of the arrest.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (d), an arrest
for which arrest relief has been granted is deemed not to have
occurred, and a person who has been granted arrest relief is released
from any penalties and disabilities resulting from the arrest, and
may answer any question relating to that arrest accordingly.

(c) On a monthly basis, the department shall electronically
 submit a notice to the superior court having jurisdiction over the
 criminal case, informing the court of all cases for which a

32 complaint was filed in that jurisdiction and for which relief was

granted pursuant to this section. Commencing on August 1, 2022,
 for any record retained by the court pursuant to Section 68152 of

for any record retained by the court pursuant to Section 68152 ofthe Government Code, except as provided in subdivision (d), the

36 court shall not disclose information concerning an arrest that is

37 granted relief pursuant to this section to any person or entity, in

38 any format, except to the person whose arrest was granted relief

39 or a criminal justice agency, as defined in Section 851.92.

1 (d) Relief granted pursuant to this section is subject to all of the 2 following conditions:

3 (1) Arrest relief does not relieve a person of the obligation to
4 disclose an arrest in response to a direct question contained in a
5 questionnaire or application for employment as a peace officer, as
6 defined in Section 830.

7 (2) Relief granted pursuant to this section has no effect on the
a ability of a criminal justice agency, as defined in Section 851.92,
y to access and use records that are granted relief to the same extent
that would have been permitted for a criminal justice agency had
relief not been granted.

(3) This section does not limit the ability of a district attorney
to prosecute, within the applicable statute of limitations, an offense
for which arrest relief has been granted pursuant to this section.

(4) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not affect a
person's authorization to own, possess, or have in the person's
custody or control a firearm, or the person's susceptibility to
conviction under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 29800) of
Division 9 of Title 4 of Part 6, if the arrest would otherwise affect
this authorization or susceptibility.

(5) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not affect any
prohibition from holding public office that would otherwise apply
under law as a result of the arrest.

(6) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not affect the
authority to receive, or take adverse action based on, criminal
history information, including the authority to receive certified
court records received or evaluated pursuant to Section 1522,
1568.09, 1569.17, or 1596.871 of the Health and Safety Code, or
pursuant to any statutory or regulatory provisions that incorporate
the criteria of those sections.

(e) This section does not limit petitions, motions, or orders for
arrest record relief, as required or authorized by any other law,
including, but not limited to, Sections 851.87, 851.90, 851.91,

34 1000.4, and 1001.9.

(f) The department shall annually publish on the OpenJustice
Web portal, as described under Section 13010, statistics for each
county regarding the total number of arrests granted relief pursuant
to this section and the percentage of arrests for which the state
summary criminal history information does not include a
disposition.

1 (g) This section shall be operative commencing July 1, 2022, 2 subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

3 SEC. 2. Section 1203.41 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

4 1203.41. (a) If a defendant is convicted of a felony, the court,
5 in its discretion and in the interests of justice, may order the
6 following relief, subject to the conditions of subdivision (b):

7 (1) The court may permit the defendant to withdraw their plea 8 of guilty or plea of nolo contendere and enter a plea of not guilty, 9 or, if the defendant has been convicted after a plea of not guilty, 10 the court shall set aside the verdict of guilty, and, in either case, the court shall dismiss the accusations or information against the 11 12 defendant and the defendant shall thereafter be released from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense of which they 13 14 have been convicted, except as provided in Section 13555 of the 15 Vehicle Code.

16 (2) The relief available under this section may be granted only 17 after the lapse of one year following the defendant's completion 18 of the sentence, if the sentence was imposed pursuant to 19 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (h) of Section 20 1170, or after the lapse of two years following the defendant's 21 completion of the sentence, if the sentence was imposed pursuant 22 to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (h) of Section 1170 or if the defendant was sentenced to the state prison. 23

24 (3) The relief available under this section may be granted only

if the defendant is not on parole or under supervision pursuant to
subparagraph (B) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (h) of Section
1170, and is not serving a sentence for, on probation for, or charged
with the commission of any offense.

29 (4) The defendant shall be informed, either orally or in writing,

of the provisions of this section and of their right, if any, to petition
for a certificate of rehabilitation and pardon at the time they are
sentenced.

(5) The defendant may make the application and change of plea
in person or by attorney, or by a probation officer authorized in
writing.

36 (b) Relief granted pursuant to subdivision (a) is subject to all37 of the following conditions:

38 (1) In any subsequent prosecution of the defendant for any other

39 offense, the prior conviction may be pleaded and proved and shall

have the same effect as if the accusation or information had not
 been dismissed.

3 (2) The order shall state, and the defendant shall be informed, 4 that the order does not relieve them of the obligation to disclose

5 the conviction in response to any direct question contained in any

6 questionnaire or application for public office, for licensure by any

7 state or local agency, or for contracting with the California State

8 Lottery Commission.

9 (3) Dismissal of an accusation or information pursuant to this 10 section does not permit a person to own, possess, or have in their 11 custody or control any firearm or prevent their conviction under

12 Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 29800) of Division 9 of Title

13 4 of Part 6.

(4) Dismissal of an accusation or information underlying a
conviction pursuant to this section does not permit a person
prohibited from holding public office as a result of that conviction
to hold public office.

(c) This section applies to any conviction specified in 18 19 subdivision (a) that occurred before, on, or after January 1, 2021. 20 (d) A person who petitions for a change of plea or setting aside 21 of a verdict under this section may be required to reimburse the 22 court for the actual costs of services rendered, whether or not the 23 petition is granted and the records are sealed or expunged, at a rate 24 to be determined by the court not to exceed one hundred fifty 25 dollars (\$150), and to reimburse the county for the actual costs of 26 services rendered, whether or not the petition is granted and the 27 records are sealed or expunged, at a rate to be determined by the 28 county board of supervisors not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars 29 (\$150), and to reimburse any city for the actual costs of services 30 rendered, whether or not the petition is granted and the records are 31 sealed or expunged, at a rate to be determined by the city council 32 not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). Ability to make this reimbursement shall be determined by the court using the 33 34 standards set forth in paragraph (2) of subdivision (g) of Section 35 987.8 and shall not be a prerequisite to a person's eligibility under 36 this section. The court may order reimbursement in any case in 37 which the petitioner appears to have the ability to pay, without 38 undue hardship, all or any portion of the costs for services 39 established pursuant to this subdivision.

(e) (1) Relief shall not be granted under this section unless the
prosecuting attorney has been given 15 days' notice of the petition
for relief. The probation officer shall notify the prosecuting attorney
when a petition is filed, pursuant to this section, if the defendant
was on mandatory supervision. The parole officer shall notify the
prosecuting attorney when a petition is filed, pursuant to this
section, if the defendant was on parole.

8 (2) It shall be presumed that the prosecuting attorney has 9 received notice if proof of service is filed with the court.

10 (f) If, after receiving notice pursuant to subdivision (e), the 11 prosecuting attorney fails to appear and object to a petition for

11 prosecuting attorney fails to appear and object to a petition for 12 dismissal, the prosecuting attorney shall not move to set aside or 13 otherwise appeal the grant of that petition.

14 SEC. 3. Section 1203.425 of the Penal Code is amended to 15 read:

16 1203.425. (a) (1) (A) Commencing July 1, 2022, and subject 17 to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, on a monthly basis, 18 the Department of Justice shall review the records in the statewide 19 criminal justice databases, and based on information in the state summary criminal history repository and the Supervised Release 20 21 File, shall identify persons with convictions that meet the criteria 22 set forth in subparagraph (B) and are eligible for automatic 23 conviction record relief.

(B) A person is eligible for automatic conviction relief pursuantto this section if they meet all of the following conditions:

(i) The person is not required to register pursuant to the SexOffender Registration Act.

(ii) The person does not have an active record for local, state,or federal supervision in the Supervised Release File.

30 (iii) Based upon the information available in the department's

31 record, including disposition dates and sentencing terms, it does

not appear that the person is currently serving a sentence for anoffense and there is no indication of pending criminal charges.

34 (iv) The conviction meets either of the following criteria:

(I) The conviction occurred on or after January 1, 2021, andmeets either of the following criteria:

37 (ia) The defendant was sentenced to probation, and, based upon

38 the disposition date and the term of probation specified in the

39 department's records, appears to have completed their term of

40 probation without revocation.

1 (ib) The defendant was convicted of an infraction or 2 misdemeanor, was not granted probation, and, based upon the 3 disposition date and the term specified in the department's records, 4 the defendant appears to have completed their sentence, and at 5 least one calendar year has elapsed since the date of judgment.

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6 (II) The conviction occurred on or after January 1, <del>1973,</del> 2005, 7 the defendant was convicted of a felony other than one for which 8 the defendant completed probation without revocation, and based 9 upon the disposition date and the sentence specified in the 10 department's records, appears to have completed all terms of incarceration, probation, mandatory supervision, postrelease 11 12 supervision, and parole. parole, and a period of four years has 13 elapsed since the date on which the defendant completed probation 14 or supervision for that conviction and during which the defendant 15 was not convicted of a new felony offense. This subclause does not apply to a conviction of a serious felony defined in subdivision (c) 16 17 of Section 1192.7, a violent felonv as defined in Section 667.5, or 18 a felony offense requiring registration pursuant to Chapter 5.5 19 (commencing with Section 290) of Title 9 of Part 1.

(2) (A) Except as specified in subdivision (b), the department
shall grant relief, including dismissal of a conviction, to a person
identified pursuant to paragraph (1) without requiring a petition
or motion by a party for that relief if the relevant information is
present in the department's electronic records.

(B) The state summary criminal history information shall include, directly next to or below the entry or entries regarding the person's criminal record, a note stating "relief granted," listing the date that the department granted relief and this section. This note shall be included in all statewide criminal databases with a record of the conviction.

31 (C) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4) and in Section
32 13555 of the Vehicle Code, a person granted conviction relief
33 pursuant to this section shall be released from all penalties and
34 disabilities resulting from the offense of which the person has been
35 convicted.

36 (3) Commencing July 1, 2022, and subject to an appropriation
37 in the annual Budget Act, on a monthly basis, the department shall
38 electronically submit a notice to the superior court having
39 jurisdiction over the criminal case, informing the court of all cases
40 for which a complaint was filed in that jurisdiction and for which

1 relief was granted pursuant to this section. Commencing on August

2 1, 2022, for any record retained by the court pursuant to Section

3 68152 of the Government Code, except as provided in paragraph

4 (4), the court shall not disclose information concerning a conviction

5 granted relief pursuant to this section or Section 1203.4, 1203.4a,

6 1203.41, or 1203.42, to any person or entity, in any format, except 7 to the person whose conviction was granted relief or a criminal 8 institute accepts as defined in Section 851.02

8 justice agency, as defined in Section 851.92.

9 (4) Relief granted pursuant to this section is subject to the 10 following conditions:

(A) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not relieve a
person of the obligation to disclose a criminal conviction in
response to a direct question contained in a questionnaire or
application for employment as a peace officer, as defined in Section
830.

16 (B) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not relieve a 17 person of the obligation to disclose the conviction in response to 18 a direct question contained in a questionnaire or application for 19 public office, or for contracting with the California State Lottery 20 Commission.

(C) Relief granted pursuant to this section has no effect on the
 ability of a criminal justice agency, as defined in Section 851.92,
 to access and use records that are granted relief to the same extent

that would have been permitted for a criminal justice agency hadrelief not been granted.

26 (D) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not limit the 27 jurisdiction of the court over a subsequently filed motion to amend 28 the record, petition or motion for postconviction relief, or collateral 29 attack on a conviction for which relief has been granted pursuant 30 to this section.

31 (E) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not affect a 32 person's authorization to own, possess, or have in the person's 33 custody or control a firearm, or the person's susceptibility to 34 conviction under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 29800) of 35 Division 9 of Title 4 of Part 6, if the criminal conviction would

36 otherwise affect this authorization or susceptibility.

37 (F) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not affect a

prohibition from holding public office that would otherwise applyunder law as a result of the criminal conviction.

(G) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not affect the
 authority to receive, or take adverse action based on, criminal
 history information, including the authority to receive certified
 court records received or evaluated pursuant to Section 1522,
 1568.09, 1569.17, or 1596.871 of the Health and Safety Code, or
 pursuant to any statutory or regulatory provisions that incorporate
 the criteria of those sections.

8 (H) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not make eligible 9 a person who is otherwise ineligible to provide, or receive payment 10 for providing, in-home supportive services pursuant to Article 7 11 (commencing with Section 12300) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of 12 Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or pursuant to 13 Section 14132.95, 14132.952, or 14132.956 of the Welfare and 14 Institutions Code.

(I) In a subsequent prosecution of the defendant for any other
offense, the prior conviction may be pleaded and proved and shall
have the same effect as if the relief had not been granted.

18 (J) Relief granted pursuant to this section does not release the 19 defendant from the terms and conditions of any unexpired criminal 20 protective orders that have been issued by the court pursuant to 21 paragraph (1) of subdivision (i) of Section 136.2, subdivision (j) 22 of Section 273.5, subdivision (1) of Section 368, or subdivision 23 (k) of Section 646.9. These protective orders shall remain in full 24 effect until expiration or until any further order by the court 25 modifying or terminating the order, despite the dismissal of the 26 underlying accusation or information.

(5) This section shall not limit petitions, motions, or orders for
relief in a criminal case, as required or authorized by any other
law, including, but not limited to, Sections 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1016.5,
and 1473.7.

(6) Commencing July 1, 2022, and subject to an appropriation
in the annual Budget Act, the department shall annually publish
statistics for each county regarding the total number of convictions
granted relief pursuant to this section and the total number of
convictions prohibited from automatic relief pursuant to
subdivision (b), on the OpenJustice Web portal, as defined in
Section 13010.

38 (b) (1) The prosecuting attorney, probation department, or the

39 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may, no later than

40 90 calendar days before the date of a person's eligibility for relief

1 pursuant to this section, file a petition to prohibit the department

2 from granting automatic relief pursuant to this section, based on

3 a showing that granting that relief would pose a substantial threat

4 to the public safety.

5 (2) The court shall give notice to the defendant and conduct a

6 hearing on the petition within 45 days after the petition is filed.

7 (3) At a hearing on the petition pursuant to this subdivision, the 8 defendant, the probation department, the Department of Corrections 9 and Rehabilitation, the prosecuting attorney, and the arresting 10 agency, through the prosecuting attorney, may present evidence to the court. Notwithstanding Sections 1538.5 and 1539, the hearing 11 12 may be heard and determined upon declarations, affidavits, police 13 investigative reports, copies of state summary criminal history 14 information and local summary criminal history information, or 15 any other evidence submitted by the parties that is material,

reliable, and relevant.
(4) The prosecutor, probation department, or Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation has the initial burden of proof to

19 show that granting conviction relief would pose a substantial threat

20 to the public safety. In determining whether granting relief would

21 pose a substantial threat to the public safety, the court may consider 22 any relevant factors including, but not limited to, either of the

23 following:

24 (A) Declarations or evidence regarding the offense for which a25 grant of relief is being contested.

26 (B) The defendant's record of arrests and convictions.

27 (5) If the court finds that the prosecutor, probation department, 28 or the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, has satisfied 29 the burden of proof, the burden shifts to the defendant to show that 30 the hardship of not obtaining relief outweighs the threat to the 31 public safety of providing relief. In determining whether the 32 defendant's hardship outweighs the threat to the public safety, the 33 court may consider any relevant factors including, but not limited 34 to, either of the following:

35 (A) The hardship to the defendant that has been caused by the 36 conviction and that would be caused if relief is not granted.

(B) Declarations or evidence regarding the defendant's goodcharacter.

39 (6) If the court grants a petition pursuant to this subdivision,

40 the court shall furnish a disposition report to the Department of

Justice pursuant to Section 13151, stating that relief pursuant to
 this section was denied, and the department shall not grant relief

3 pursuant to this section.

4 (7) A person denied relief pursuant to this section may continue

to be eligible for relief pursuant to Section 1203.4 or 1203.4a. *1203.4, 1203.4a, or 1203.41*. If the court subsequently grants relief

7 pursuant to one of those sections, the court shall furnish a

8 disposition report to the Department of Justice pursuant to Section

9 13151, stating that relief was granted pursuant to the applicable

10 section, and the department shall grant relief pursuant to that 11 section.

(c) At the time of sentencing, the court shall advise a defendant,
either orally or in writing, of the provisions of this section and of
the defendant's right, if any, to petition for a certificate of
rehabilitation and pardon.

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# All matter omitted in this version of the bill appears in the bill as amended in the Senate, April 20, 2021. (JR11)

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