



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
COALITION

March 10, 2023

Rep. David Evans, *Chair*  
House Committee on Judiciary  
[david.evans@house.mo.gov](mailto:david.evans@house.mo.gov)

Rep. Rudy Veit, *Vice Chair*  
House Committee on Judiciary  
[rudy.veit@house.mo.gov](mailto:rudy.veit@house.mo.gov)

**Re: H.B. 753**

Dear Representatives Evans and Veit:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes to share our views regarding H.B. 753. The PCC seeks additions to the bill to improve Missouri's Clean Slate law. We urge that the bill incorporate these amendments to ensure protections for the public and for certification organizations that confer credentials conveying an individual's suitable knowledge, competence, and ethical conduct to participate in a profession.

The PCC is a nonprofit association formed to address legislation that affects professional certification programs, those who hold private certification credentials, and the many constituencies that rely on professional certification. The PCC's organizational members include non-governmental professional certification organizations, professional societies, and service providers. The PCC's members reflect a wide spectrum of professions, including health care, engineering, financial services, and information technology, among many others. Our founding organizations – the American Society of Association Executives (the leading organization for association management) and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (the leading developer of accreditation standards for professional certification programs) – govern the PCC.

The PCC supports the goal of ensuring that individuals who have completed their sentences are not permanently stigmatized when seeking employment. **But state licensing agencies and private certification organizations need access to the records of certain past criminal convictions in order to make well-informed decisions about conferring credentials that endorse the individual as trustworthy.**

Some nonviolent and non-sex-offender crimes merit a continuing disqualification from certain professions, such as if a licensed financial advisor has embezzled from clients or a licensed practical nurse providing home health care services has engaged in identity theft. Further, many misdemeanor convictions result from plea bargains, even though the underlying offense would constitute a felony or a misdemeanor that carries a longer maximum sentence. A misdemeanor conviction for which the sentence has been served may still be relevant to an applicant's fitness to perform an occupation.

Licensing boards play a critical role in ensuring that the public can safely engage the services of a licensed professional. Licensing boards should not be prevented from having access to information that bears on an applicant's fitness to perform a profession, especially where that information has been established beyond a reasonable doubt, with due process to the applicant.

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Private certification organizations also play an important role in conferring credentials on which the public relies. Certifications convey the certification organization's endorsement that the individual meets the competency, knowledge, and conduct standards required for the credential – an endorsement that may be misleading if the certification organization cannot even consider relevant past conduct.

To address these concerns, the PCC proposes that a new safe harbor provision be added as Section 610.147(12):

**“Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this chapter shall prevent a licensing authority or certification organization from accessing, or requiring an individual to disclose, the individual’s expunged misdemeanor and felony conviction records in connection with a decision on the licensing or certification status of the individual. A licensing agency or certification organization may use such information solely in connection with that decision and may take an action based on an expunged conviction only if the underlying conduct resulting in the prior conviction would, if committed by a current licensee or certificant, be the basis for disciplinary action by the licensing authority or certification organization.”**

The PCC has also asked for this provision to be added as an amendment to bills SB 36, SB 347, HB 352, HB 395, SB 447, SB 370.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information identified below.

Sincerely,



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Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Legal Counsel to the PCC  
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CC: Rep. Justin Hicks  
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AABC Commissioning Group  
ABRET Neurodiagnostic  
Credentialing & Accreditation  
(ABRET)  
ABSA International: the  
Association for Biosafety and  
Biosecurity (ABSA)  
Academy for Certification of  
Vision Rehabilitation &  
Education Professionals  
(ACVREP)  
American Association of  
Professional Landmen (AAPL)  
American Board for  
Certification in Orthotics,  
Prosthetics and Pedorthics  
(ABCOP)  
American Board of Certification  
for Gastroenterology Nurses  
(ABCGN)  
American Board of Foot and  
Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)  
American Board of Medical  
Specialties (ABMS)  
American Board of  
Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)  
American Board of Nursing  
Specialties (ABNS)  
American Industrial Hygiene  
Association (AIHA)  
American Legal Nurse  
Consultant Certification Board  
(ALNCCB)  
American Medical Certification  
Association (AMCA)  
American Nurses Credentialing  
Center (ANCC)  
American Payroll Association  
(APA)  
American Society of  
Association Executives (ASAE)

American Society of Civil  
Engineers (ASCE)  
American Speech-Language-  
Hearing Association (ASHA)  
American Traffic Safety  
Services Association (ATSSA)  
American Translators  
Association (ATA)  
Arcitura Education, Inc.  
Association for Financial  
Counseling & Planning  
Education (AFCPE)  
Association of Surgical  
Technologists (AST)  
Behavior Analyst Certification  
Board (BACB)  
Board of  
Certification/Accreditation  
(BOC)  
Board of Certified Safety  
Professionals (BCSP)  
Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
(BPS)  
Building Commissioning  
Certification Board (BCCB)  
Certification Board for Diabetes  
Care and Education (CBDCE)  
Certification Board for Music  
Therapists (CBMT)  
Certification Board of Infection  
Control and Epidemiology  
(CBIC)  
Certification Council for  
Professional Dog Trainers  
(CCPDT)  
Certified Financial Planner  
Board of Standards (CFP)  
Certified Fund Raising  
Executive International (CFRE)  
CertiProf, LLC

Chartered Financial Analyst  
Institute (CFA)  
Commission for Case Manager  
Certification (CCMC)  
Commission on Nurse  
Certification (CNC)  
Community Association  
Institute (CAI)  
Computing Technology Industry  
Association (CompTIA)  
Construction Management  
Association of America  
(CMAA)  
Council for Interior Design  
Qualification (CIDQ)  
Council of Engineering and  
Scientific Specialty Boards  
(CESB)  
Dental Assisting National Board  
(DANB)  
Diving Equipment and  
Marketing Association (DEMA)  
Entertainment Services and  
Technology Association (ESTA)  
ETA International  
Financial Planning Association  
(FPA)  
Healthcare Sterile Processing  
Association (HSPA)  
Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue  
Education Foundation (HPBA)  
Heuristic Solutions  
Hospice and Palliative  
Credentialing Center (HPCC)  
Institute for Credentialing  
Excellence (ICE)  
Institute of Hazardous Materials  
Management (IHMM)  
Institute of Inspection Cleaning  
and Restoration Certification  
(IICRC)

International Coach Federation (ICF)  
International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC<sup>2</sup>)  
Investments & Wealth Institute (IWI)  
Irrigation Association  
IT Certification Council (ITCC)  
Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)  
Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)  
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)  
National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)  
National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA/BOC)  
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)  
National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)  
National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)  
National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)  
National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)  
National Certification Corporation (NCC)  
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)  
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)  
National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)  
National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)  
National Restaurant Association (NRA)  
National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)  
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)  
Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)  
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)  
Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)  
Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)  
Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)  
PSI Services  
Pearson Vue  
QualityPro  
Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)  
School Nutrition Association (SNA)  
SeaCrest Consulting  
Security Industry Association (SIA)  
Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)  
Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB) c/o National Association of Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board  
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)

Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)  
National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)