

Code for America Paper Record Talking Points for HB 569

Last updated 3/12/24 in advance of House Judiciary Hearing, 3/13/24

Our Perspective on Automation:

Implementation feasibility is one of our main goals for this bill. We want this to work well for everyone—for people with past records in need of a fresh start and for the government agencies who will be working to provide it to them.

It is not our goal to automate every step of the petition-based process, but to **create a new and streamlined process with as few steps as possible to minimize the need for ongoing manual work by humans**. To develop automation solutions, we believe the government's existing technology and data availability are the foundation to crafting a fully-functioning automatic record clearance process.

Recommendation: Using the Electronic Record as the Official Record

- **Overall message:** HB 569's newly incorporated language that makes the electronic record the official record of truth greatly increases the technical feasibility of this Clean Slate policy by reducing the manual workload to process paper records.
- **How using an electronic record helps Clean Slate work for government**
 - By transitioning to electronic records as the official record, agencies can use technology to accurately and at scale identify who is eligible - using digital data points within their system - without the burden of locating, analyzing, and redacting historical paper records one by one.
 - It will also allow them to utilize digital - instead of manual - means to update records within their system once they've identified who is eligible.
 - Across many jurisdictions, paper records management is challenging. However, amidst this complexity, all states who have passed Clean Slate, including Oklahoma and Utah, have used their existing digital records as the primary starting point for Clean Slate record clearance, showcasing a proven path forward that Kentucky can follow.
- Switching to digital records as the primary source of truth presents a clear opportunity to modernize and streamline record clearance procedures, benefiting both the Administration of Courts and the Kentucky State Police.
- Digital records offer numerous benefits, including enhanced accessibility, improved data integrity, and faster processing times. This adoption aligns with the broader trend of facilitating seamless information exchange and stakeholder collaboration.

Recommendation: CMS can include automation capabilities

- This is perfect timing to ensure that automation is compatible with future innovations in data management and AOC's upcoming case management systems. Embracing this proactive approach will alleviate future burdens on agencies and lay the groundwork for a more agile and responsive justice system in Kentucky.

Fiscal Note:

- The fiscal note emphasized the need to hire staff for manual review of paper records. However, the use of digital records greatly reduces the need for manual labor since people won't need to wade through thousands of paper records to individually process them. Instead, technology can quickly search through digital records at a much faster pace than humans, not only simplifying processes but also reducing hiring costs significantly.