

SB 512-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2108

09/05

SENATE BILL **512-FN**

AN ACT relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

SPONSORS: Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. McGough, Dist 11

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill requires a court to waive the filing fee for a petitioner that demonstrates that he or she has been found not guilty or that the case has been dismissed or not prosecuted.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Annulment of Criminal Records; Waiver of Fee. Amend RSA 651:5, I to read as follows:

2 I. Except as provided in paragraphs V-VIII, the record of arrest, conviction and sentence of
3 any person may be annulled by the sentencing court at any time in response to a petition for
4 annulment which is timely brought in accordance with the provisions of this section if in the opinion
5 of the court, the annulment will assist in the petitioner's rehabilitation and will be consistent with
6 the public welfare. The court may grant or deny an annulment without a hearing, unless a hearing
7 is requested by the petitioner. ***The court shall waive the filing fee for a petitioner that***
8 ***demonstrates that he or she has been found not guilty or that the case has been dismissed***
9 ***or not prosecuted in accordance with paragraph II or II-a.***

10 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**SB 512-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Decrease \$10,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminable Decrease \$10,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminable Decrease \$10,000 to \$100,000
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	General Fund			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires a court to waive the \$125 filing fee for annulments involving criminal charges where a petitioner demonstrates that he or she has been found not guilty or that the case has been dismissed or not prosecuted.

The Judicial Branch states in calendar year 2024, the Branch collected \$221,425 in annulment filing fees. Based on an assumption that between 10% and 40% of annulment petitions involve such charges, the Branch estimates a reduction in filing fee revenue of more than \$10,000 but less than \$100,000 per fiscal year. The Branch is unable to provide a more precise estimate as annulled case information is expunged from its case management system and cannot be reliably tracked.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch