1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to use of criminal history in 3 licensing; amending s. 112.0111, F.S.; revising 4 legislative intent; revising state agency reporting 5 requirements; defining the term "conviction"; amending 6 s. 455.213, F.S.; authorizing applicable boards or the 7 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to 8 make certain findings relating to rehabilitation 9 during licensing decisions; providing factors that must be considered in making such findings; defining 10 11 the term "conviction"; providing an effective date. 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 15 Section 1. Section 112.0111, Florida Statutes, is amended 16 to read: 112.0111 Restrictions on the employment of ex-offenders; 17 18 legislative intent; state agency reporting requirements. -19 The Legislature declares that a goal of this state is (1)20 to clearly identify the occupations from which ex-offenders are 21 disqualified based on the nature of their offenses. The 22 Legislature seeks to make employment opportunities available to 23 ex-offenders in a manner that preserves and protects serves to 24 preserve and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the 25 general public, yet encourages ex-offenders them to become

Page 1 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

productive members of society. To this end, state agencies that exercise regulatory authority are in the best position to identify all restrictions on employment imposed by the agencies or by boards that regulate professions and occupations and are obligated to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public by clearly setting forth those restrictions in keeping with statutory standards and protections determined by the agencies to be in the least restrictive manner.

- state agency, including, but not limited to, those state agency, including, but not limited to, those state agencies responsible for issuing licenses, permits, or certifications to pursue, practice, or engage in an occupation, trade, vocation, profession, or business must post and maintain publicly on its website professional and occupational regulatory boards, shall ensure the appropriate restrictions necessary to protect the overall health, safety, and welfare of the general public are in place, and by December 31, 2011, and every 4 years thereafter, submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that includes all of the following:
- (a) The total number of applications received by the state agency in the previous calendar year for a license, permit, or certification for which the applicant had a prior conviction, or any other adjudication, for a crime A list of all agency or board statutes or rules that disqualify from employment or

licensure persons who have been convicted of a crime and have completed any incarceration and restitution to which they have been sentenced for such crime.

- paragraph (a), the number of times the state agency denied, withheld, or refused to grant an application because of the applicant's prior conviction, or any other adjudication, of a crime. The report must also specify the crimes for which each decision to deny, withhold, or refuse to grant an application for a license, permit, or certification was based A determination of whether the disqualifying statutes or rules are readily available to prospective employers and licensees.
- (c) Out of the number of applications received in paragraph (a), the number of times the state agency granted an application in which the applicant had a prior conviction, or any other adjudication, of a crime. The report must also specify the crimes in such applications which were not used as a basis for denial The identification and evaluation of alternatives to the disqualifying statutes or rules which protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public without impeding the gainful employment of ex-offenders.
- (d) The information provided by the state agency under paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), broken down by the specific type of application submitted and the types of licenses, permits, or certifications sought, including if the applicant is a resident

76 of the state or an out-of-state resident.

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

8687

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

- (e) Any other information or data the state agency deems relevant in fulfilling its purpose under this section.
- (3) For purposes of this section, the term "conviction" means a determination of guilt that is the result of a plea or trial, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.
- Section 2. Subsection (15) of section 455.213, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (16), and a new subsection (15) is added to that section, to read:
  - 455.213 General licensing provisions.-
- (15) Each applicable board, or the department if there is no board, may make a finding that an applicant for a license has been rehabilitated after a conviction, or any other adjudication, for a crime. Based on such finding, the board, or the department if there is no board, may grant a license regardless of an applicant's prior conviction, or any other adjudication, for a crime. Such finding must be made based on the following factors:
- (a) The age of the person when he or she committed the crime.
- (b) The amount of time that has elapsed since the person committed the crime.
- (c) The circumstances surrounding and the nature of the crime.
  - (d) If the person completed his or her criminal sentence

Page 4 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

IUI	and, it so, the amount of time that has passed since such
102	completion.
103	(e) If the person received a certificate of rehabilitation
104	or good conduct.
105	(f) If the person completed or is an active participant in
106	a rehabilitative drug or alcohol program.
107	(g) Any testimonials or recommendations, including
108	progress reports from the person's probation or parole officer.
109	(h) Any education and training the person has received.
110	(i) The person's past employment history and his or her
111	employment aspirations.
112	(j) The person's family responsibilities.
113	(k) If the occupation, trade, vocation, profession, or
114	business for which the person seeks employment requires him or
115	her to be bonded.
116	(1) Any other evidence of rehabilitation or information
117	that the person submits to the board or department.
118	
119	For purposes of this subsection, the term "conviction" means a
120	determination of guilt that is the result of a plea or trial,
121	regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.
122	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Page 5 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.