



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA  
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March 30, 2021

Hon. Alex Lee  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2170  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 898 (Lee), as introduced – Support/Sponsor  
Hearing: Assembly Public Safety Committee– April 6, 2021

Dear Assembly Member Lee:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support and sponsor AB 898, which requires notification of reductions of felonies to misdemeanors and dismissals of convictions in probation transfer cases between receiving courts and transferring courts. In doing so, AB 898 helps to ensure the accuracy of court records when requests are made for those records.

In 2018 and 2019, the Legislature passed significant automated record relief bills, which transferred the burden of seeking record relief from a defendant-petitioner to government agencies. AB 1793 (Bonta Stats. 2018, ch. 993) provided automated relief for marijuana convictions under Proposition 64. AB 1076 (Ting; Stats. 2019, ch. 578) required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to grant automatic record relief to individuals who have completed probation without revocation and are not currently serving a sentence for any offense. A court may not disclose information concerning a conviction granted automatic record relief or a dismissal under this legislation except in limited circumstances.

Because DOJ has disposition information only from the county of conviction (the transferring court), if a probation transfer case is granted automated relief in the transferring court and the receiving court is not notified, the receiving court may have inaccurate publicly accessible

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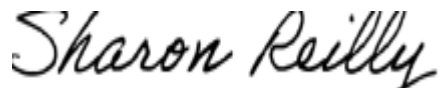
conviction documents in its case file. This inaccurate information could hamper the ability of individuals eligible for relief to obtain employment and housing, among other things

AB 898 addresses this issue by requiring probation transfers to be reported to DOJ and the DOJ, in turn, to provide notification of reductions of felonies to misdemeanors and dismissals of convictions in probation transfer cases between receiving courts and transferring courts. As a result, AB 898 helps ensure the accuracy of court records and that the eligible individuals receive the record relief contemplated by existing criminal record relief statutes and AB 1073 and AB 1076.

For these reasons the Judicial Council sponsors and supports AB 898.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Reilly  
Attorney

cc: Ms. Angie Wei, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California