## LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

## **LEGISLATIVE BILL 215**

Introduced by Holdcroft, 36.

Read first time January 14, 2025

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to criminal justice; to amend section
- 2 83-1,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Clean
- 3 Slate Act; to provide for commutations; to provide duties for the
- 4 Department of Correctional Services, Board of Parole, Division of
- 5 Parole Supervision, and Board of Pardons; to harmonize provisions;
- 6 and to repeal the original section.
- 7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 10 of this act shall be known and may be

- 2 cited as the Clean Slate Act.
- 3 **Sec. 2.** (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:
- 4 (a) After individuals convicted of nonviolent or less violent crimes
- 5 have served their sentences and obeyed the law long enough to demonstrate
- 6 their rehabilitation, such individuals' criminal records should not stand
- 7 as an impediment to the necessities of life, such as employment, housing,
- 8 and education. However, criminal justice agencies need access to all
- 9 criminal history record information in order to effectively carry out
- 10 their duties to protect the public;
- 11 (b) The state shall provide a clean slate remedy, as set forth under
- 12 <u>the Clean Slate Act, in order to:</u>
- 13 (i) Provide an incentive for offenders to remain crime-free;
- 14 (ii) Provide hope to offenders who are trying to rehabilitate
- 15 themselves;
- 16 (iii) Save the state money that must be spent when offenders
- 17 recidivate; and
- 18 (iv) Ensure appropriate access to criminal history record
- 19 information by criminal justice agencies and for other purposes essential
- 20 to the health and safety of the public; and
- 21 (c) To the extent possible, the Clean Slate Act should be
- 22 implemented with low cost to the courts, criminal justice agencies, and
- 23 individuals seeking relief under the act.
- 24 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Clean Slate Act, the definitions found
- 25 in the Security, Privacy, and Dissemination of Criminal History
- 26 <u>Information Act and sections 4 and 5 of this act apply.</u>
- 27 **Sec. 4.** The terms conviction and adjudication:
- 28 (1) Include a conviction or adjudication following trial or entry of
- 29 <u>a guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere and include a forfeiture of</u>
- 30 bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person
- 31 charged with an offense;

1 (2) When used in reference to an offense committed in another

- 2 jurisdiction, include convictions and adjudications by any village, town,
- 3 city, state, territory, commonwealth, or other jurisdiction of the United
- 4 States, by the United States Government, or by court-martial or other
- 5 military tribunal; and
- 6 (3) When used in determining whether a person has been convicted of,
- 7 or adjudicated for, an offense during the eligibility period described in
- 8 <u>section 6 or 7 of this act, do not include convictions or adjudications</u>
- 9 (i) pardoned, (ii) set aside under section 29-2264, or (iii) set aside,
- 10 <u>expunged</u>, or otherwise nullified by another jurisdiction through a
- 11 procedure comparable in effect to section 29-2264.
- 12 Sec. 5. (1) Qualified offense means an offense under Nebraska law,
- 13 <u>an ordinance of a Nebraska city or village, or a county resolution that</u>
- 14 is:
- 15 (a) A Class III, IIIA, or IV felony, including unclassified felonies
- 16 under section 28-107;
- 17 (b) A misdemeanor, including unclassified misdemeanors under section
- 18 28-107; or
- 19 (c) An infraction.
- 20 (2) Qualified offense does not include any of the following
- 21 <u>offenses:</u>
- 22 (a) Illegal disclosure of juror names, section 25-1673;
- 23 (b) Tampering with a jury list, section 25-1676;
- 24 (c) Motor vehicle homicide, section 28-306, except for a misdemeanor
- 25 violation;
- 26 (d) Assault by strangulation or suffocation, section 28-310.01;
- 27 <u>(e) Criminal child enticement, section 28-311;</u>
- 28 <u>(f) Terroristic threats, section 28-311.01;</u>
- 29 (g) Stalking, section 28-311.04, except for a misdemeanor violation;
- 30 (h) A violation of section 28-311.08;
- 31 (i) Violation of harassment protection order, section 28-311.09;

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1 (j) Violation of sexual assault protection order, section 28-311.11;

- 2 (k) False imprisonment in the first or second degree, section 28-314
- 3 or 28-315;
- 4 (1) Sexual abuse by a school employee, section 28-316.01;
- 5 <u>(m) Any sexual assault or sexual abuse offense, sections 28-317 to</u>
- 6 28-322.05;
- 7 (n) Any domestic assault, section 28-323, except for a misdemeanor
- 8 violation of subdivision (1)(c) of section 28-323;
- 9 (o) Any violation relating to abortion, sections 28-325 to 28-345
- 10 and section 28-347.04;
- 11 (p) Failure to report under Adult Protective Services Act, section
- 12 <u>28-384;</u>
- 13 (q) Knowing and intentional abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a
- 14 <u>vulnerable or senior adult, section 28-386;</u>
- 15 (r) Any violation of the Homicide of the Unborn Child Act, sections
- 16 28-388 to 28-394;
- 17 (s) Any violation of the Assault of an Unborn Child Act, sections
- 18 28-395 to 28-3,101;
- 19 (t) Intentional or reckless performance of or attempt to perform an
- 20 abortion in violation of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,
- 21 section 28-3,108;
- 22 (u) Prohibited acts related to methamphetamine, chemical substances,
- 23 and paraphernalia, section 28-457;
- 24 (v) Arson in the second or third degree, section 28-503 or 28-504;
- 25 (w) Violation of Counterfeit Airbag Prevention Act, section 28-644;
- 26 (x) Incest, section 28-703;
- 27 (y) Child abuse, section 28-707;
- 28 (z) Willful failure to report abused or neglected children, section
- 29 <u>28-717;</u>
- 30 (aa) Solicitation of prostitution, section 28-801.01, except for a
- 31 <u>misdemeanor violation;</u>

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1 (bb) Keeping a place of prostitution used by a person under the age

- 2 of eighteen years, section 28-804;
- 3 (cc) Enticement by electronic communication device, section 28-833;
- 4 (dd) Resisting arrest, section 28-904, except for a misdemeanor
- 5 violation;
- 6 (ee) Operating a motor vehicle or vessel to avoid arrest, section
- 7 28-905, except for a misdemeanor violation;
- 8 (ff) Escape or permitting an escape from official detention, section
- 9 28-912;
- 10 (gg) Accessory to escape of juvenile from custody of Office of
- 11 <u>Juvenile Services, section 28-912.01;</u>
- 12 (hh) Introducing escape implements or contraband, section 28-913;
- 13 (ii) Perjury and subornation of perjury, section 28-915;
- 14 (jj) Bribery, section 28-917;
- 15 (kk) Bribery of a witness or witness accepting bribe or benefit,
- 16 section 28-918;
- 17 (11) Tampering with a witness or informant or jury tampering,
- 18 section 28-919;
- 19 (mm) Bribery of a juror or juror accepting bribe or benefit, section
- 20 28-920;
- 21 (nn) Tampering with physical evidence, section 28-922;
- 22 (oo) Assault on an officer, an emergency responder, a state
- 23 correctional employee, a Department of Health and Human Services
- 24 employee, or a health care professional in the third degree, section
- 25 28-931;
- 26 (pp) Assault on an officer, an emergency responder, a state
- 27 <u>correctional employee, a Department of Health and Human Services</u>
- 28 <u>employee</u>, or a health care professional using a motor vehicle, section
- 29 <u>28-931.01;</u>
- 30 (qq) Assault by a confined person, section 28-932;
- 31 (rr) Assault with a bodily fluid against a public safety officer,

- 1 28-934;
- 2 (ss) Animal fighting, prohibited acts, section 28-1005;
- 3 (tt) Knowing or intentional ownership or possession of animal
- 4 fighting paraphernalia, section 28-1005.01;
- 5 (uu) Abandonment, cruel neglect, or cruel mistreatment of an animal
- 6 or harassment of a police animal, section 28-1009, except for a Class IV
- 7 misdemeanor violation;
- 8 (vv) Indecency with an animal, section 28-1010;
- 9 (ww) Violation of court order related to felony animal abuse
- 10 conviction, section 28-1019;
- 11 (xx) Gambling debt collection, section 28-1105.01;
- 12 <u>(yy) Unlawful possession of a firearm by a prohibited juvenile</u>
- 13 offender, section 28-1204.05, except for a Class IV felony violation;
- 14 (zz) Possession of a deadly weapon other than a firearm during
- 15 commission of a felony, section 28-1205;
- 16 (aaa) Carrying a firearm or destructive device during the commission
- 17 of a dangerous misdemeanor, section 28-1205, except for a misdemeanor
- 18 violation;
- 19 <u>(bbb) Possession of a deadly weapon other than a firearm by a</u>
- 20 prohibited person, section 28-1206;
- 21 (ccc) Unlawful possession of explosive materials in the first
- 22 <u>degree</u>, <u>section</u> 28-1215;
- 23 (ddd) Unlawful sale of explosives, section 28-1217;
- 24 (eee) Obtaining an explosives permit through false representations,
- 25 <u>section 28-1219;</u>
- 26 (fff) Possession of a destructive device, section 28-1220;
- 27 <u>(ggg) Threatening the use of explosives or placing a false bomb,</u>
- 28 section 28-1221;
- 29 (hhh) Using explosives to damage or destroy property, section
- 30 <u>28-1223;</u>
- 31 (iii) Concealment of death to prevent determination of cause or

- 1 <u>circumstances of death, section 28-1302;</u>
- 2 (jjj) Unauthorized computer access creating grave risk of death,
- 3 section 28-1343.01;
- 4 (kkk) Operation of aircraft while under the influence of alcohol or
- 5 drugs, third or subsequent offense, section 28-1469;
- 6 (111) Violation of the Sex Offender Registration Act, section
- 7 29-4011;
- 8 (mmm) Placing burning materials or items likely to cause injury on
- 9 highways, third or subsequent offense, section 39-311;
- 10 (nnn) Violation of domestic abuse protection order, section 42-924;
- 11 (ooo) Knowingly and intentionally dispensing alcohol in any manner
- 12 <u>to minors or incompetents resulting in serious bodily injury or death</u>
- 13 <u>caused by the minors' consumption or impaired condition, section</u>
- 14 53-180.05;
- 15 (ppp) Owner of a dangerous dog which inflicts serious bodily injury,
- 16 second or subsequent offense, section 54-622.01;
- 17 (qqq) Violation of prohibitions relating to dangerous dogs, section
- 18 54-623;
- 19 <u>(rrr) Abandonment, cruel neglect, or cruel mistreatment of a</u>
- 20 <u>livestock animal, section 54-903, except for a misdemeanor violation;</u>
- 21 (sss) Violation of court order not to own or possess a livestock
- 22 <u>animal</u>, section 54-909;
- 23 (ttt) Driving under the influence with a prior felony conviction for
- 24 driving under the influence, section 60-6,196.01;
- 25 (uuu) Any offense punishable under section 60-6,197.03, except for a
- 26 Class W misdemeanor;
- 27 (vvv) Causing serious bodily injury to another person or an unborn
- 28 <u>child while driving under the influence, section 60-6,198;</u>
- 29 <u>(www) Prohibited acts relating to ignition interlock device, section</u>
- 30 <u>60-6,211.11;</u>
- 31 (xxx) Violations regarding children in foster care, section 71-1905;

1 (yyy) Violation of Children's Residential Facilities and Placing

- 2 Licensure Act, section 71-1950;
- 3 (zzz) Threatening or attempting to influence a member or an employee
- 4 of the Board of Parole, section 83-198;
- 5 (aaaa) Operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence with
- 6 disabled, bypassed, or altered ignition interlock device or without an
- 7 ignition interlock device or permit in violation of Board of Pardons
- 8 order, section 83-1,127.02; and
- 9 (bbbb) Threatening or attempting to influence a member of the Board
- 10 of Pardons, section 83-1,133;
- 11 (3) Qualified offense does not include any offense for which:
- 12 <u>(a) Registration is required under the Sex Offender Registration</u>
- 13 Act;
- 14 (b) Relief has already been provided under section 29-3523 or
- 15 sections 43-2,108.01 to 43-2,108.05; or
- 16 (c) The penalty has been enhanced under section 29-2221.
- 17 (4) Qualified offense does not include any other offense involving
- 18 as an element of the offense:
- 19 (a) Sexual contact or sexual penetration, as those terms are defined
- 20 <u>in section 28-318; or</u>
- 21 (b) The infliction of serious bodily injury, as defined in section
- 22 <u>28-109, or death.</u>
- 23 (5) Qualified offense does not include:
- 24 (a) Attempt, under section 28-201, to commit any offense excluded
- 25 from the definition of a qualified offense under this section;
- 26 (b) Attempt, under section 28-201, to commit any offense when such
- 27 attempt is punishable as a Class IIIA felony or higher;
- 28 (c) Conspiracy, under section 28-202, to commit any offense excluded
- 29 from the definition of a qualified offense under this section;
- 30 (d) Accessory to felony, under section 28-204, except for accessory
- 31 violations punishable as a Class IV felony or a misdemeanor;

- 1 (e) Aiding consummation of felony, under section 28-205, for any
- 2 <u>felony excluded from the definition of a qualified offense under this</u>
- 3 <u>section; and</u>
- 4 (f) Aiding or abetting commission of an offense, under section
- 5 28-206, for any offense excluded from the definition of a qualified
- 6 offense under this section.
- 7 **Sec. 6.** (1) Beginning January 1, 2026, a person shall automatically
- 8 <u>be eligible for clean slate relief under section 8 of this act for a</u>
- 9 qualified offense that is a misdemeanor if:
- 10 (a) The qualified offense was committed on or after January 1, 2021;
- 11 <u>(b) Such person has not been convicted of, or adjudicated for, a</u>
- 12 <u>misdemeanor or felony anywhere in the United States during the</u>
- 13 eligibility period described in subsection (3) of this section; and
- 14 <u>(c) Such person has paid all court-ordered financial obligations</u>
- 15 <u>related to such qualified offense.</u>
- 16 (2) Eligibility for relief under this section shall be determined
- 17 <u>internally and administratively by the State Court Administrator and does</u>
- 18 <u>not require involvement by the person in interest.</u>
- 19 (3) The eligibility period for qualified offenses under this section
- 20 shall be:
- 21 <u>(a) For conviction of a qualified offense that is a Class I or II</u>
- 22 misdemeanor, ten years following the date of conviction;
- 23 (b) For an adjudication for a qualified offense that is a Class I or
- 24 II misdemeanor, seven years following the date of conviction; or
- 25 (c) For a conviction of, or adjudication for, a qualified offense
- 26 that is a Class III or lower misdemeanor, five years following the date
- 27 of conviction or adjudication.
- 28 <u>(4) No later than thirty days following expiration of the</u>
- 29 eligibility period under subsection (3) of this section, the State Court
- 30 Administrator shall determine if a person convicted of, or adjudicated
- 31 for, a qualified offense described in subsection (1) of this section is

- 1 eligible for clean slate relief under this section. If the State Court
- 2 Administrator determines that a person is eligible, the State Court
- 3 Administrator shall, within such same thirty-day period, notify the court
- 4 of conviction or adjudication of such determination.
- 5 (5) Each court of conviction or adjudication shall, on a monthly
- 6 basis, issue orders for clean slate relief under section 8 of this act
- 7 <u>for each person for whom the court received a notification under</u>
- 8 <u>subsection (4) of this section.</u>
- 9 (6) The State Court Administrator is not required to proceed under
- 10 <u>subsection</u> (4) of this <u>section</u> if the <u>State Court Administrator</u>
- 11 <u>determines that the person in interest is deceased.</u>
- 12 Sec. 7. (1) A person convicted of, or adjudicated for, a qualified
- 13 offense may petition the court for clean slate relief under section 8 of
- 14 this act if:
- 15 (a) Such person has not been convicted of, or adjudicated for, a
- 16 misdemeanor or felony anywhere in the United States during the
- 17 eligibility period described in subsection (3) of this section; and
- 18 (b) Such person has paid all court-ordered financial obligations
- 19 <u>related to such qualified offense.</u>
- 20 (2) This section applies to qualified offenses committed before, on,
- 21 <u>or after the effective date of this act.</u>
- 22 (3) The eligibility period for qualified offenses under this section
- 23 shall be:
- 24 (a) For conviction of a qualified offense that is a Class III or
- 25 lower felony or a Class I or II misdemeanor, ten years following the date
- 26 <u>of conviction;</u>
- 27 <u>(b) For an adjudication for a qualified offense that is a Class III</u>
- 28 or lower felony or a Class I or II misdemeanor, seven years following the
- 29 <u>date of conviction; or</u>
- 30 (c) For a conviction of, or adjudication for, a qualified offense
- 31 that is a Class III or lower misdemeanor or an infraction, five years

- 1 following the date of conviction or adjudication.
- 2 (4) The petition shall be filed in the court of conviction or
- 3 adjudication. There shall be no filing or docketing fee charged by the
- 4 court for the filing of a petition except for the fee authorized by this
- 5 subsection. The court may charge a filing fee in an amount set by the
- 6 State Court Administrator. The fee shall be set at an amount to recoup
- 7 the costs associated with administering the Clean Slate Act, but shall
- 8 not exceed forty dollars.
- 9 (5) The court shall provide notice of the filing of the petition to
- 10 the appropriate county attorney or city attorney within ten days. The
- 11 county attorney or city attorney shall provide notice to any victim of
- 12 <u>the offense of the request and provide an opportunity for the victim to</u>
- 13 provide the attorney with a statement for consideration by the court.
- 14 Within thirty days after receipt of notice, the county attorney or city
- 15 attorney may file objections to the petition and shall file any victim
- 16 statements. If no objection is timely filed, the court may grant the
- 17 petition without further hearing if the requirements of this section have
- 18 been met.
- 19 <u>(6) If the court determines that the person in interest meets the</u>
- 20 <u>eligibility requirements, and the qualified offense:</u>
- 21 (a) Is a felony, the court may grant the petition; or
- 22 (b) Is a misdemeanor or infraction, the court shall grant the
- 23 <u>petition.</u>
- 24 (7) The court may grant a petition for a felony if the court finds
- 25 that doing so will be in the best interest of the petitioner and
- 26 consistent with the public welfare.
- 27 <u>(8) Upon granting a petition under this section, the court shall</u>
- 28 issue an order for clean slate relief under section 8 of this act.
- 29 (9) An order granting or denying a petition under this section is a
- 30 final, appealable order for purposes of section 25-1902.
- 31 Sec. 8. (1) Following entry of a court order granting a person

- 1 clean slate relief under sections 6 or 7 of this act, a criminal justice
- 2 agency shall respond to a public inquiry in the same manner as if there
- 3 were no criminal history record information and criminal history record
- 4 information shall not be disseminated to any person other than a criminal
- 5 justice agency, except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this
- 6 section.
- 7 (2) In issuing an order for clean slate relief, the court shall:
- 8 (a) Order that all records, including any information or other data
- 9 concerning any proceedings relating to the case, including the arrest,
- 10 taking into custody, petition, complaint, indictment, information, trial,
- 11 hearing, adjudication, correctional supervision, dismissal, or other
- 12 <u>disposition or sentence, are not part of the public record and shall not</u>
- 13 be disseminated to persons other than criminal justice agencies, except
- 14 as provided in subsection (4) of this section;
- 15 (b) Send notice of the order to (i) the Nebraska Commission on Law
- 16 Enforcement and Criminal Justice, (ii) the Nebraska State Patrol, and
- 17 <u>(iii) law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, and city attorneys</u>
- 18 referenced in the court record;
- 19 (c) If the order relates to an adjudication, send notice of the
- 20 order to (i) the Department of Motor Vehicles, if the adjudication
- 21 included impoundment or prohibition to obtain a license or permit
- 22 pursuant to section 43-287, and (ii) the Department of Health and Human
- 23 Services, if the person in interest was a ward of the state at the time
- 24 the proceeding was initiated or if the department was a party in the
- 25 proceeding;
- 26 (d) Order all parties notified under subdivisions (2)(b) and (c) of
- 27 this section to seal all records pertaining to the case; and
- 28 <u>(e) If the case was transferred from one court to another, send</u>
- 29 <u>notice of the order to seal the record to the transferring court.</u>
- 30 (3) In any application for employment, bonding, license, education,
- 31 or other right or privilege, any appearance as a witness, or any other

- 1 public inquiry, a person shall not be questioned with respect to any
- 2 offense for which the record is sealed. If an inquiry is made in
- 3 violation of this subsection, the person may respond as if the offense
- 4 never occurred.
- 5 (4) A criminal justice agency may, with respect to criminal history
- 6 record information sealed under this section, disclose, disseminate,
- 7 respond to inquiries regarding, or allow inspection of such criminal
- 8 history record information:
- 9 <u>(a) If the person in interest has made a notarized request for the</u>
- 10 release of information, to the extent authorized in such release;
- 11 <u>(b) If the person in interest is currently the subject of</u>
- 12 prosecution or correctional control as the result of a separate arrest;
- 13 (c) If the person in interest is currently an announced candidate
- 14 for or holder of public office;
- (d) If the criminal history record information is kept unidentified,
- 16 and the record is used for purposes of surveying or summarizing
- 17 <u>individual or collective law enforcement agency activity or practices, or</u>
- 18 the dissemination is requested consisting only of release of criminal
- 19 <u>history record information showing (i) dates of arrests, (ii) reasons for</u>
- 20 arrests, and (iii) the nature of the dispositions, including, but not
- 21 limited to, reasons for not prosecuting the case or cases;
- 22 (e) To individuals and agencies for the express purpose of research,
- 23 evaluative, or statistical activities pursuant to an agreement with a
- 24 criminal justice agency that specifically authorizes access to the
- 25 information, limits the use of the information to research, evaluative,
- 26 or statistical activities, and ensures the confidentiality and security
- 27 of the information; and
- 28 (f) In response to an inquiry for employment, security, or other
- 29 purposes to the extent disclosure of such criminal history record
- 30 <u>information is required by:</u>
- 31 (i) Federal law, including rules and regulations and rules and

regulations promulgated by a self-regulatory organization created under 1

- 2 federal law; or
- (ii) State law, including rules or regulations, relating to 3
- operation of a motor vehicle or caring for or interacting with children, 4
- including, but not limited to, determining whether an application filed 5
- or a license issued under sections 71-1901 to 71-1906.01, the Child Care 6
- 7 Licensing Act, or the Children's Residential Facilities and Placing
- Licensure Act or a certificate issued under sections 79-806 to 79-815 8
- 9 should be denied, suspended, or revoked.
- 10 (5) In addition to disclosures authorized under subsection (4) of
- this section, inspection of criminal history record information relating 11
- 12 to an adjudication that has been sealed under this section may be made by
- the persons and for the purposes authorized in section 43-2,108.05. 13
- Sec. 9. (1) Upon petition of the county attorney or city attorney, 14
- 15 and with notice to the person in interest and opportunity to be heard,
- the court shall vacate an order for clean slate relief issued pursuant to 16
- 17 section 6 of this act if the court determines that the order was
- 18 erroneously entered and not in accordance with section 6 of this act.
- (2)(a) Upon conviction of, or adjudication for, a felony or 19
- misdemeanor, the county attorney or city attorney may file a motion 20
- 21 requesting the court to enter an order vacating a prior order for clean
- 22 slate relief issued pursuant to section 6 or 7 of this act.
- 23 (b) The court shall grant such motion if the new conviction is for:
- 24 (i) A felony; or
- 25 (ii) A misdemeanor that is not a qualified offense.
- (c) The court may grant such motion if the new conviction is for a 26
- 27 misdemeanor that is a qualified offense.
- 28 (3) Upon entry of an order under subsection (1) or (2) of this
- section, the court shall send notice of such order as provided in 29
- subsection (2) of section 8 of this act. 30
- Sec. 10. The State Court Administrator may adopt and promulgate 31

- 1 rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the Clean Slate Act.
- 2 Sec. 11. (1)(a) The Legislature finds that individuals serving
- 3 long-term or life sentences who are rehabilitated and ready to be safely
- 4 released from incarceration should be able to earn a second chance by
- 5 receiving a commutation of their sentences from the Board of Pardons.
- 6 Such commutation is intended to allow such rehabilitated individuals to
- 7 be responsibly reintegrated into their communities while on parole and,
- 8 if successful on parole, as fully free individuals.
- 9 (b) Second chance relief is a program through which the department,
- 10 the Division of Parole Supervision, and the Board of Parole identify
- 11 <u>eligible committed offenders and work with them to apply for a</u>
- 12 commutation from the Board of Pardons.
- 13 (2) The department, the Division of Parole Supervision, and the
- 14 Board of Parole shall establish a program to provide recommendations for
- 15 second chance relief as provided in this section.
- 16 (3) A committed offender serving a sentence of imprisonment,
- 17 including life imprisonment, is eligible for second chance relief under
- 18 this section as follows:
- 19 <u>(a) For an offense committed when the offender was younger than</u>
- 20 twenty-six years of age, after serving at least twenty-five years of a
- 21 <u>sentence of imprisonment; or</u>
- 22 (b) For an offense committed when the offender was twenty-six years
- 23 of age or older, after serving at least thirty years of a sentence of
- 24 imprisonment.
- 25 (4) The department shall regularly identify committed offenders who
- 26 are eligible under this section or who will become eligible within five
- 27 <u>years. The department shall regularly provide lists of such offenders to</u>
- 28 the Board of Parole. The board shall advise such offenders regarding the
- 29 second chance relief program and work with interested offenders to
- 30 improve their chances of obtaining second chance relief through
- 31 rehabilitation and good behavior.

1 (5) In determining whether an eligible committed offender is

- 2 <u>rehabilitated and a good candidate for second chance relief, the Board of</u>
- 3 Parole shall:
- 4 (a) Complete a risk assessment for the committed offender; and
- 5 (b) Involve community leaders and stakeholders in the review process
- 6 to ensure that public safety and community concerns are addressed.
- 7 (6) If the Board of Parole determines that an eligible committed
- 8 offender is rehabilitated and a good candidate for second chance relief,
- 9 the board shall make a recommendation to the Board of Pardons that such
- 10 offender's sentence be commuted.
- 11 (7)(a) If the Board of Pardons receives a recommendation for second
- 12 <u>chance relief from the Board of Parole, the Board of Pardons shall</u>
- 13 promptly consider whether to grant a commutation of some or all of the
- 14 remainder of a committed offender's sentence to a term of parole. Such
- 15 term shall not extend longer than the remainder of the term of
- 16 imprisonment.
- 17 (b) If the Board of Pardons determines not to grant a commutation,
- 18 the board shall provide the committed offender with a list of steps or
- 19 requirements that the committed offender must satisfy to increase the
- 20 chances the committed offender will be granted a commutation at a
- 21 subsequent review. The Board of Pardons shall also provide a process for
- 22 seeking a subsequent commutation review. Upon completion of such steps or
- 23 requirements, the committed offender may petition the Board of Pardons to
- 24 grant a commutation. The Board of Pardons shall review a petition for
- 25 subsequent review and make a determination within thirty days after
- 26 receipt of such petition.
- 27 <u>(8) If a committed offender is granted a commutation and paroled</u>
- 28 under this section, the Board of Parole shall:
- 29 <u>(a) Develop a detailed reentry plan tailored to the committed</u>
- 30 offender's needs, including job placement, housing support, and access to
- 31 continuing education and mental health services;

- 1 (b) Provide the committed offender with access to mentorship
- 2 programs and community support networks to facilitate successful
- 3 reintegration into the community;
- 4 (c) Provide for victim and community involvement through restorative
- 5 justice programs. The Board of Parole shall offer restorative justice
- 6 opportunities, when appropriate, to allow the committed offender to make
- 7 amends with victims and the community; and
- 8 (d) Provide for accountability and monitoring by requiring regular
- 9 <u>check-ins</u> with parole officers and continuous monitoring during the
- 10 initial phase of reentry to ensure compliance with conditions of parole.
- 11 (9) The Board of Parole shall implement a system for ongoing
- 12 <u>evaluation and adjustment of the second chance relief program based on</u>
- 13 <u>outcomes and feedback</u>.
- 14 Sec. 12. Section 83-1,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 83-1,135 Sections 83-170 to 83-1,135.05 and section 11 of this act
- 17 shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Treatment and Corrections
- 18 Act.
- 19 Sec. 13. Original section 83-1,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 20 Nebraska, is repealed.