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SENATE BILL

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE; ENACTING THE UNIFORM COLLATERAL  
CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be  
cited as the "Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction  
Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act:

A. "collateral consequence" means a collateral  
sanction or a disqualification;

B. "collateral sanction" means a penalty,  
disability or disadvantage, however denominated, imposed on an  
individual as a result of the individual's conviction of an  
offense that applies whether or not the penalty, disability or

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1 disadvantage is included in the judgment or sentence.

2 "Collateral sanction" does not include imprisonment, probation,  
3 parole, supervised release, forfeiture, restitution, fine,  
4 assessment or costs of prosecution;

5 C. "convicted" and "conviction" include an  
6 adjudication as a youthful offender or serious youthful  
7 offender that results in an adult sentence;

8 D. "decision-maker" means the state, acting through  
9 the following entities or their employees:

10 (1) a department;

11 (2) an agency;

12 (3) an officer; or

13 (4) an instrumentality, including a political  
14 subdivision, an educational institution, a board, a commission  
15 or a government contractor, including a subcontractor, made  
16 subject to the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction  
17 Act by contract, by law other than the Uniform Collateral  
18 Consequences of Conviction Act or by ordinance;

19 E. "disqualification" means a penalty, disability  
20 or disadvantage, however denominated, that an administrative  
21 agency, governmental official or court in a civil proceeding is  
22 authorized, but not required, to impose on an individual on  
23 grounds relating to the individual's conviction of an offense;

24 F. "identification agency" means the New Mexico  
25 sentencing commission, acting in conjunction with the district

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1 attorneys of New Mexico, the attorney general and the public  
2 defender department;

3 G. "offense" means a felony pursuant to the law of  
4 New Mexico, another state or the United States;

5 H. "person" means an individual, corporation,  
6 business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability  
7 company, association, joint venture, public corporation,  
8 government or governmental subdivision, agency or  
9 instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity; and

10 I. "state" means a state of the United States, the  
11 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
12 Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
13 jurisdiction of the United States.

14 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] LIMITATION ON SCOPE.--

15 A. The Uniform Collateral Consequences of  
16 Conviction Act does not provide a basis for:

- 17 (1) invalidating a plea, conviction or  
18 sentence;
- 19 (2) a cause of action for money damages; or
- 20 (3) a claim for relief from or defense to the  
21 application of a collateral consequence based on a failure to  
22 comply with Section 4, 5 or 6 of the Uniform Collateral  
23 Consequences of Conviction Act.

24 B. The Uniform Collateral Consequences of  
25 Conviction Act does not affect:

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1 (1) the duty an individual's attorney owes to  
2 the individual, except as provided in Section 5 of the Uniform  
3 Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act;

4 (2) a claim or right of a victim of an  
5 offense; or

6 (3) a right or remedy pursuant to law other  
7 than the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act  
8 available to an individual convicted of an offense.

9 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] IDENTIFICATION, COLLECTION AND  
10 PUBLICATION OF LAWS REGARDING COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES.--

11 A. The identification agency:

12 (1) shall identify or cause to be identified  
13 any provision in the constitution of New Mexico and New  
14 Mexico's statutes published in the New Mexico Statutes  
15 Annotated that imposes a collateral sanction or authorizes the  
16 imposition of a disqualification, and any provision of law that  
17 may afford relief from a collateral consequence;

18 (2) not later than six months after the  
19 effective date of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of  
20 Conviction Act, shall prepare or cause to be prepared a  
21 collection of citations to, and the text or short descriptions  
22 of, the provisions identified pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this  
23 subsection;

24 (3) shall update or cause to be updated the  
25 collection provided for in Paragraph (2) of this subsection

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1 within three months after the laws enacted during each session  
2 of the legislature are published in the New Mexico Statutes  
3 Annotated; and

4 (4) in complying with Paragraphs (1) and (2)  
5 of this subsection, may rely on the study of New Mexico's  
6 collateral sanctions, disqualifications and relief provisions  
7 prepared by the national institute of justice described in  
8 Section 510 of the federal Court Security Improvement Act of  
9 2007, Pub. L. 110-177.

10 B. As required by Subsection A of this section, the  
11 identification agency shall include or cause to be included the  
12 following statements in a prominent manner at the beginning of  
13 the collection:

14 (1) "This collection has not been enacted into  
15 law and does not have the force of law.";

16 (2) "An error or omission in this collection,  
17 or in any reference work cited in this collection, is not a  
18 reason for invalidating a plea, conviction or sentence or for  
19 not imposing a collateral sanction or authorizing a  
20 disqualification.";

21 (3) "The laws of other jurisdictions and New  
22 Mexico counties and municipalities and the New Mexico  
23 Administrative Code are not included in this collection and may  
24 impose additional collateral sanctions and authorize additional  
25 disqualifications."; and

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1 (4) "This collection does not include any law  
2 or other provision regarding the imposition of or relief from a  
3 collateral sanction or a disqualification enacted or adopted  
4 after *[insert date the collection was prepared or last*  
5 *updated]*."

6 C. The identification agency shall publish or cause  
7 to be published in the manner provided in Subsection D of this  
8 section the collection prepared and updated as required by  
9 Subsection A of this section. If available, the identification  
10 agency shall publish or cause to be published, as part of the  
11 collection, the title and internet address of:

12 (1) the most recent collection of collateral  
13 consequences imposed by federal law; and

14 (2) any provision of federal law that may  
15 afford relief from a collateral consequence.

16 D. The collection provided for in Subsection C of  
17 this section shall be published on the website of the  
18 identification agency and shall be available to the public on  
19 the internet without charge not later than three weeks after it  
20 is created or updated.

21 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTICE OF COLLATERAL  
22 CONSEQUENCES IN PRETRIAL PROCEEDING AND AT GUILTY PLEA.--

23 A. Except as provided in Subsection C of this  
24 section, counsel representing an individual charged with an  
25 offense shall cause information substantially similar to the

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1 following to be communicated to the individual during pretrial  
2 proceedings and shall discuss the information with the  
3 individual:

4 "NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

5 If you plead guilty or nolo contendere to an  
6 offense, or are convicted of an offense, you may  
7 suffer additional legal consequences beyond jail or  
8 prison, probation, periods of parole and fines.

9 These consequences may include:

- 10 1. being unable to get or keep some licenses,  
11 permits or jobs;
- 12 2. being unable to get or keep benefits such as  
13 public housing or education;
- 14 3. receiving a harsher sentence if you are  
15 convicted of another offense in the future;
- 16 4. having the government take your property; and  
17 5. being unable to vote or possess a firearm.

18 If you are not a United States citizen, a guilty  
19 plea or nolo contendere plea or conviction may also result  
20 in your deportation, removal or exclusion from admission  
21 to the United States or denial of citizenship.

22 The law may provide ways to obtain some relief from  
23 these consequences.

24 Further information about the consequences of  
25 conviction is available on the internet at [insert

1           *internet address of the collection of laws published*  
2           *pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4 of the*  
3           *Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act]."*

4           B. Before a court accepts a plea of guilty or nolo  
5           contendere from an individual, the court shall confirm that the  
6           individual received and understands the notice required by  
7           Subsection A of this section and has had an opportunity to  
8           discuss the notice with counsel.

9           C. The notice required pursuant to Subsection A of  
10          this section need not be given until six months have elapsed  
11          after the collection of laws required pursuant to Section 4 of  
12          the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act is first  
13          available on the internet pursuant to Subsections C and D of  
14          Section 4 of that act.

15          D. This section does not limit the duty that an  
16          individual's counsel otherwise owes to the individual.

17           **SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] NOTICE OF COLLATERAL**  
18           **CONSEQUENCES AT SENTENCING AND UPON RELEASE.--**

19           A. An individual convicted of an offense shall be  
20           given notice as provided in Subsections B and C of this  
21           section:

22                   (1) that collateral consequences may apply  
23                   because of the conviction;

24                   (2) of the internet address of the collection  
25                   of laws published pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4

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1 of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act;

2 (3) that there may be ways to obtain relief  
3 from collateral consequences;

4 (4) of contact information for government or  
5 nonprofit agencies, groups or organizations, if any, offering  
6 assistance to individuals seeking relief from collateral  
7 consequences; and

8 (5) of when an individual convicted of an  
9 offense may vote pursuant to New Mexico law.

10 B. Except as provided in Subsection D of this  
11 section, the individual's counsel shall provide the notice set  
12 forth in Subsection A of this section not more than thirty and,  
13 if practicable, at least five days before sentencing.

14 C. Except as provided in Subsection D of this  
15 section, if an individual is sentenced to imprisonment or other  
16 incarceration, the officer or agency releasing the individual  
17 shall provide the notice set forth in Subsection A of this  
18 section not more than thirty and, if practicable, at least five  
19 days before release.

20 D. The notice required pursuant to Subsection A of  
21 this section need not be given until six months have elapsed  
22 after the collection of laws required pursuant to Section 4 of  
23 the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act is first  
24 available on the internet pursuant to Subsections C and D of  
25 Section 4 of that act.

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1           SECTION 7.   [NEW MATERIAL] AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR  
2 COLLATERAL SANCTION--AMBIGUITY.--

3           A.   A collateral sanction may be imposed only by  
4 statute or ordinance or by a rule authorized by law and adopted  
5 in accordance with applicable law.

6           B.   A law creating a collateral consequence that is  
7 ambiguous as to whether it imposes a collateral sanction or  
8 authorizes a disqualification shall be construed as authorizing  
9 a disqualification.

10          SECTION 8.   [NEW MATERIAL] DECISION TO DISQUALIFY.--In  
11 deciding whether to impose a disqualification, a decision-maker  
12 shall undertake an individualized assessment to determine  
13 whether the benefit or opportunity at issue should be denied  
14 the individual.  In making that decision, the decision-maker  
15 may consider, if substantially related to the benefit or  
16 opportunity at issue, the particular facts and circumstances  
17 involved in the offense and the essential elements of the  
18 offense.  A conviction itself shall not be considered except as  
19 having established the elements of the offense.  The decision-  
20 maker shall also consider other relevant information, including  
21 the effect on third parties of granting the benefit or  
22 opportunity and whether the individual has been granted relief,  
23 such as an order of limited relief.

24          SECTION 9.   [NEW MATERIAL] EFFECT OF CONVICTION BY ANOTHER  
25 STATE OR THE UNITED STATES--RELIEVED OR PARDONED CONVICTION.--

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1           A. For purposes of authorizing or imposing a  
2 collateral consequence in New Mexico, a conviction of an  
3 offense in a court of another state or the United States is  
4 deemed a conviction of the offense in New Mexico with the same  
5 elements. If there is no offense in New Mexico with the same  
6 elements, the conviction is deemed a conviction of the most  
7 serious offense in New Mexico that is established by the  
8 elements of the offense. A misdemeanor in the jurisdiction of  
9 conviction shall not be deemed a felony in New Mexico, and an  
10 offense lesser than a misdemeanor in the jurisdiction of  
11 conviction shall not be deemed a conviction of a felony or  
12 misdemeanor in New Mexico.

13           B. For purposes of authorizing or imposing a  
14 collateral consequence in New Mexico, a juvenile adjudication  
15 in another state or the United States shall not be deemed a  
16 conviction of a felony, misdemeanor or offense lesser than a  
17 misdemeanor in New Mexico.

18           C. A conviction that is reversed, overturned or  
19 otherwise vacated by a court of competent jurisdiction of New  
20 Mexico, another state or the United States on grounds other  
21 than rehabilitation or good behavior shall not serve as the  
22 basis for authorizing or imposing a collateral consequence in  
23 New Mexico.

24           D. A pardon issued by another state or the United  
25 States has the same effect for purposes of authorizing,

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1 imposing and relieving a collateral consequence in New Mexico  
2 as it has in the issuing jurisdiction.

3 E. A conviction that has been relieved by  
4 expungement, sealing, annulment, set-aside or vacation by a  
5 court of competent jurisdiction of another state or the United  
6 States on grounds of rehabilitation or good behavior, or for  
7 which civil rights are restored pursuant to statute, has the  
8 same effect for purposes of authorizing or imposing collateral  
9 consequences in New Mexico as it has in the jurisdiction of  
10 conviction; provided, however, that such relief or restoration  
11 of civil rights does not relieve collateral consequences  
12 applicable pursuant to the law of New Mexico for which relief  
13 could not be granted pursuant to Section 11 of the Uniform  
14 Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act or for which relief  
15 was expressly withheld by the court order or by the law of the  
16 jurisdiction that relieved the conviction. An individual  
17 convicted in another jurisdiction may seek relief pursuant to  
18 Section 10 of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction  
19 Act from any collateral consequence for which relief was not  
20 granted in the issuing jurisdiction except those consequences  
21 listed in Section 11 of that act.

22 F. A charge or prosecution in any jurisdiction that  
23 has been finally terminated without a conviction and imposition  
24 of sentence based on participation in a deferred adjudication  
25 or diversion program shall not serve as the basis for

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1 authorizing or imposing a collateral consequence in New Mexico.  
2 This subsection does not affect the validity of any restriction  
3 or condition imposed by law as part of participation in the  
4 deferred adjudication or diversion program, before or after the  
5 termination of the charge or prosecution.

6 SECTION 10. [NEW MATERIAL] ORDER OF LIMITED RELIEF.--

7 A. An individual convicted of an offense may  
8 petition for an order of limited relief from one or more  
9 collateral sanctions related to employment, education, housing,  
10 public benefits or occupational licensing. The petition may be  
11 presented to the sentencing court at or before sentencing.

12 B. Except as otherwise provided in Section 12 of  
13 the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, the  
14 court may issue an order of limited relief relieving one or  
15 more of the collateral sanctions described in Subsection A of  
16 this section if, after reviewing the petition, the individual's  
17 criminal history, any filing by a victim pursuant to Section 14  
18 of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act or a  
19 prosecutor and any other relevant evidence, it finds the  
20 individual has established by a preponderance of the evidence  
21 that:

22 (1) granting the petition will materially  
23 assist the individual in obtaining or maintaining employment,  
24 education, housing, public benefits or occupational licensing;

25 (2) the individual has substantial need for

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1 the relief requested in order to live a law-abiding life; and

2 (3) granting the petition would not pose an  
3 unreasonable risk to the safety or welfare of the public or any  
4 individual.

5 C. An order of limited relief shall specify:

6 (1) the collateral sanction from which relief  
7 is granted; and

8 (2) any restriction imposed pursuant to  
9 Subsection A of Section 12 of the Uniform Collateral  
10 Consequences of Conviction Act.

11 D. An order of limited relief relieves a collateral  
12 sanction to the extent provided in the order.

13 E. If a collateral sanction has been relieved  
14 pursuant to this section, a decision-maker may consider the  
15 conduct underlying a conviction as provided in Section 8 of the  
16 Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act.

17 **SECTION 11. [NEW MATERIAL] COLLATERAL SANCTIONS NOT**  
18 **SUBJECT TO ORDER OF LIMITED RELIEF.--**An order of limited relief  
19 shall not be issued to relieve the following collateral  
20 sanctions:

21 A. requirements imposed by the Sex Offender  
22 Registration and Notification Act;

23 B. a motor vehicle license suspension, revocation,  
24 limitation or ineligibility pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Code,  
25 for which restoration or relief is available pursuant to law

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1 other than the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction  
2 Act;

3 C. ineligibility for certification as a law  
4 enforcement officer pursuant to the Law Enforcement Training  
5 Act or for employment as a correctional officer pursuant to the  
6 Corrections Act; or

7 D. prohibitions imposed pursuant to Section 30-7-16  
8 NMSA 1978 making it unlawful for felons to receive, transport  
9 or possess a firearm or destructive device while in this state.

10 SECTION 12. [NEW MATERIAL] ISSUANCE OF ORDER OF LIMITED  
11 RELIEF.--

12 A. The prosecutor shall be notified of a request  
13 for an order of limited relief. The court may issue an order  
14 of limited relief subject to restriction, condition or  
15 additional requirement.

16 B. The court shall order any test, report,  
17 investigation or disclosure by the individual it reasonably  
18 believes necessary to its decision to issue an order of limited  
19 relief. If there are disputed issues of material fact or law,  
20 the individual and any prosecutor notified pursuant to  
21 Subsection A of this section or another prosecutorial agency  
22 designated by a prosecutor notified pursuant to Subsection A of  
23 this section may submit evidence and be heard on those issues.

24 SECTION 13. [NEW MATERIAL] RELIANCE ON ORDER AS EVIDENCE  
25 OF DUE CARE.--In a judicial or administrative proceeding

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1 alleging negligence or other fault, an order of limited relief  
2 may be introduced as evidence of a person's due care in hiring,  
3 retaining, licensing, leasing to, admitting to a school or  
4 program or otherwise transacting business or engaging in  
5 activity with the individual to whom the order was issued if  
6 the person knew of the order at the time of the alleged  
7 negligence or other fault.

8 SECTION 14. [NEW MATERIAL] VICTIM'S RIGHTS.--A victim of  
9 an offense may participate in a proceeding for issuance of an  
10 order of limited relief in the same manner as at a sentencing  
11 proceeding pursuant to the Victims of Crime Act.

12 SECTION 15. [NEW MATERIAL] UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND  
13 CONSTRUCTION.--In applying and construing the Uniform  
14 Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, consideration shall  
15 be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with  
16 respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

17 SECTION 16. [NEW MATERIAL] SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL  
18 PROVISIONS.--

19 A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this  
20 section, the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act  
21 applies to collateral consequences whenever enacted or imposed  
22 unless the law creating the collateral consequence expressly  
23 states that the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction  
24 Act does not apply.

25 B. The Uniform Collateral Consequences of

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1 Conviction Act does not apply to the imposition of a collateral  
2 sanction on an individual until the date that is six months  
3 after the collection of laws required pursuant to Section 4 of  
4 the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act is first  
5 available on the internet pursuant to Subsections C and D of  
6 Section 4 of that act, but a collateral sanction validly  
7 imposed before that date may be the subject of relief pursuant  
8 to that act.

9 SECTION 17. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
10 provisions of this act is January 1, 2022.