



**June 27, 2012**

## **Kasich signs legislation to reform collateral sanctions**

Yesterday, legislation introduced by State Senators Shirley Smith (D-Cleveland) and Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) was signed by Ohio Governor John Kasich. Senate Bill 337 is an extensive reform of the collateral sanctions that impose employment restrictions and limitations on over 2 million Ohioans with misdemeanor and felony convictions.

This legislation addresses a number of issues that have prevented ex-offenders from gaining successful reentry into society and their communities. It expands Ohio's records sealing laws by allowing the sealing of one felony and one misdemeanor conviction, or two misdemeanor convictions.

The legislation also creates a Certificate of Qualification for Employment that lifts automatic disqualification for certain state-issued occupational licenses and protects employers from negligent hiring lawsuits.

Senate Bill 337 also modifies Ohio's Child Support laws by giving courts more discretion in calculating child support obligations of incarcerated parents and parents with a felony conviction. The legislation also allows courts to work with individuals who would otherwise have their drivers' licenses suspended and it allows the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to create a repayment plan for license reinstatement fees.

**Full article can be read here:**

<http://www.callandpost.com/index.php/news/politics/2401-kasich-signs-legislation-to-reform-collateral-sanctions>

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