

RELEASE: Governor Rejects Financial Fairness in Annulment Process

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PRESS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR REJECTS FINANCIAL FAIRNESS IN ANNULMENT PROCESS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Today, Governor Sununu vetoed [SB 311](#), legislation that provides for an annulment of a criminal record without payment of a fee in certain cases and specifies a waiting period for the annulment of simple possession drug-related offenses. **Co-Sponsor of the legislation and Vice Chair of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, Representative Beth Rodd (D-Bradford)** released the following statement:

“During my tenure on the Criminal Justice committee, we heard testimony too often of the disparity in the corrections system between those who had the financial means to seek annulment and those who did not. The fundamental expectation of the corrections system is that once an individual has met their obligations in good standing, they should be able to return to society, seek employment, housing, and regain responsibility for the betterment of their life. Too often though, indigent people remain plagued with a criminal record because they cannot afford to pay for the process required to annul it. Governor Sununu’s reasoning in vetoing this bill is completely misinformed as this legislation would not allow for the annulment of an individual’s criminal record until all the conditions of a sentence are met. It is disappointing that in a moment where history has its eyes on us, that Governor Sununu would recklessly veto simple, common-sense legislation that would bring more equity to our criminal justice system.”

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Background: The restitution clause (section [III-b](#)) that Gov. Sununu references in his veto message of SB 311 was part of the original bill, but was ultimately removed by the House Criminal Justice Committee in the [final amendment](#) to the bill.

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