



February 1, 2022

Dear Members of the Georgia State Senate Judiciary Committee,

The Metro Atlanta Chamber writes in support of Senate Bill 257, legislation that would clarify the expungement provisions in Georgia’s Second Chances Bill (Senate Bill 288), which this legislature passed unanimously in 2020.

Senate Bill 288 removed barriers to the workforce by allowing rehabilitated individuals to petition courts to restrict and seal certain misdemeanor convictions four years after the completion of their sentence, provided they have no new convictions or pending charges. Senate Bill 288 also expanded liability protections for employers that hire an individual with a criminal history.

The Metro Atlanta Chamber strongly supported the passage of Senate Bill 288, and we support Senate Bill 257 with equal fervor. Senate Bill 257 would further the intent of Senate Bill 288 by “cleaning up” minor issues with Senate Bill 288 – e.g., allowing judges to expunge all misdemeanor theft offenses and allowing human trafficking survivors to expunge their records without unnecessary delays. (See attached Getting Georgians Back to Work document for a complete list of proposed fixes to Senate Bill 288.)

By clarifying certain provisions in Senate Bill 288, Senate Bill 257 would help deserving Georgians get back to work and help employers fill open positions.

The Metro Atlanta Chamber supports “Getting Georgians Back to Work” and respectfully requests you vote YES on Senate Bill 257. We appreciate this chamber's efforts to continue making Georgia a better state for business and ask for your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 257.

Sincerely,

Marshall Guest  
Senior Vice President, Business Climate