

CORI REFORM:
1-Year Follow-Up

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CORI REFORM: 1-Year Follow-Up

As of June 2010

- CORI Reform Bill was introduced in the House and Senate in January of 2009.
- The full House and Senate voted on their versions of the bill in November of 2009.
- Advocacy groups were working hard to gain support.
- Final bill had not been voted on yet.

As of June 2011

- Governor Patrick signed into law legislation overhauling the Commonwealth's Criminal Offender Record Information law (CORI), on August 6, 2010.
- A few provisions went into effect on November 4, 2010.
- Other provisions will go into effect on May 4, 2012.

Effective November 4, 2010

- **The Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) will be renamed the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS).** This day-to-day operational division is responsible for the collection, storage, dissemination, and use of CORI.
- **Certified volunteer organizations (i.e. organizations working with children) will be authorized to obtain CORI for paid staff, vendors and contractors, in addition to volunteers.**
- **The law “bans the box” on initial written employment applications.** Except in instances where an employer is prohibited by law from hiring individuals because of criminal convictions, employers in Massachusetts will no longer be allowed to ask about criminal offenses on an initial written employment application.

Effective May 4, 2012

- **CORI will be available online.**
- **Standard CORI access for employers and landlords, for a fee.**

(for the purpose of screening current and prospective employees, volunteers, and tenants). The report will disclose the following:

Convictions:

- All murder, manslaughter, and sex offense convictions.
- Any felony convictions that occurred within the last 10 years or for which the applicant was incarcerated; and
- Any misdemeanor convictions that occurred within the last 5 years or for which the applicant was incarcerated.

Open cases:

- Any criminal charges pending as of the date of the request, including open cases that have been continued without a finding.
- Sealed records will never appear on a CORI report
- Employers who make hiring decisions based on official CORI reports within 90 days of receiving the reports shall be held harmless in negligent hiring lawsuits that allege additional criminal background checks should have been conducted.

Effective May 4, 2012 (Cont'd)

- **Additional CORI access for employers and organizations with specific requirements.**

(i.e. schools, camps, banks, security guard companies, hospitals, day care centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, councils on aging, public housing authorities, security systems installers, amusement device operators, and insurance companies)

- **Individual access for self-auditing purposes.**

This self-audit identifies all agencies, organizations, and individuals that have requested their CORI report.

- **The Criminal Record Review Board (CRRB) will become the name of the entity that investigates complaints.**
- **The waiting periods for sealing records will be reduced.**