

Hon. A. Ludlow Kramer
Secretary of State
Legislative Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Enclosed is Enrolled Senate Bill No. 2459 as vetoed by Governor Evans on March 20, 1973.

The First Extraordinary Session of the Forty-third Legislature passed the measure notwithstanding the partial veto of Governor Evans. The Senate over-rode the Governor's veto by a vote of 40 yeas and 6 nays on April 7, 1973 and the House over-rode the Governor's veto by a vote of 79 yeas and 19 nays on April 14, 1973.

Sincerely yours,

SID SNYDER
Secretary of the Senate

CHAPTER 135
[House Bill No. 337]
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT--FELONS--
RESTRICTION REMOVED

AN ACT Relating to removing the disqualification of felons from certain employment; adding a new chapter to Title 9 RCW; and declaring an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature declares that it is the policy of the state of Washington to encourage and contribute to the rehabilitation of felons and to assist them in the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship, and the opportunity to secure employment or to pursue, practice or engage in a meaningful and profitable trade, occupation, vocation, profession or business is an essential ingredient to rehabilitation and the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, a person shall not be disqualified from employment by the state of Washington or any of its agencies or

political subdivisions, nor shall a person be disqualified to practice, pursue or engage in any occupation, trade, vocation, or business for which a license, permit, certificate or registration is required to be issued by the state of Washington or any of its agencies or political subdivisions solely because of a prior conviction of a felony: PROVIDED, This section shall not preclude the fact of any prior conviction of a crime from being considered. However, a person may be denied employment by the state of Washington or any of its agencies or political subdivisions, or a person may be denied a license, permit, certificate or registration to pursue, practice or engage in an occupation, trade, vocation, or business by reason of the prior conviction of a felony if the felony for which he was convicted directly relates to the position of employment sought or to the specific occupation, trade, vocation, or business for which the license, permit, certificate or registration is sought, and the time elapsed since the conviction is less than ten years.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This chapter shall not be applicable to any law enforcement agency; however, nothing herein shall be construed to preclude a law enforcement agency in its discretion from adopting the policy set forth in this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Any complaints or grievances concerning the violation of this chapter shall be processed and adjudicated in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 34.04 RCW, the administrative procedure act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. The provisions of this chapter shall prevail over any other provisions of law which purport to govern the denial of licenses, permits, certificates, registrations, or other means to engage in a business, on the grounds of a lack of good moral character, or which purport to govern the suspension or revocation of such a license, permit, certificate, or registration on the grounds of conviction of a crime.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 9 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1973.

Passed the House March 3, 1973.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 20, 1973.