

Mission:

To help transform systems that oppress and marginalize impacted women and create platforms for women to raise their voices and amplify it

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Introducing the Preliminary License Application Navigation Act (#PLANAct)

Women's Community Justice Association is fighting with and for justice and fairness for women, gender-expansive individuals, and people with criminal backgrounds. Join us as we push for the passage of a new law called the Preliminary License Application Navigation Act (#PLANAct) in New York.

The Preliminary License Application Navigation Act (#PLANAct) aims to remove barriers to occupational licenses in New York for people with criminal records. This bill will simplify and speed up the application process for these individuals by eliminating unnecessary and discriminatory barriers that prevent many from obtaining a license that will allow them to pursue their chosen professions.

The #PLANAct is important because it will help eliminate unnecessary barriers to getting state issued occupational licenses, which are required for almost 1 out of 4 professions. This bill will help people with a history of criminal legal involvement get a fairer opportunity to obtain better and more work opportunities.

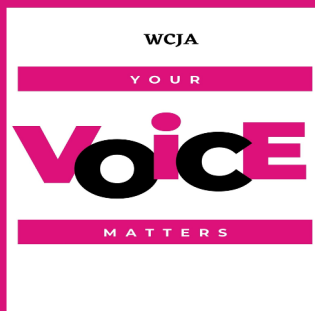
Currently, people with criminal backgrounds often face unknown restrictions that prevent them from obtaining these licenses after spending significant time and money to obtain those credentials.

But with the new law, there will be a preliminary application process, and applicants will get a chance to explain any previous convictions and show that they have been rehabilitated.

The goal of this new law is to help people who have had problems with the law to get back on their feet and find work, increase public safety and decarcerate prisons and jails in New York State.

The PLAN Act aims to make it easier and more accessible for individuals with criminal backgrounds to obtain professional licenses in New York. This will reduce barriers to employment, increase economic stability and independence, and contribute to a more just society.

The bill includes provisions that protect the privacy of applicants' personal information, expedite the review of preliminary applications from people with criminal records, and require licensing boards and agencies to consider evidence of rehabilitation when making licensure decisions.



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jails throughout New York State. By reducing the number of people in jail and promoting successful reentry into society, the state can save money and invest in other priorities, such as education and healthcare.

- The proposed legislation aligns with New York Governor Kathy Hochul's stated support for second-chance employment initiatives that enable individuals with criminal convictions to work and contribute to their communities.

The #PLANAct seeks to make it easier for individuals with criminal records to pursue occupational licenses. Current laws make it difficult for individuals with criminal backgrounds to obtain these licenses. However, this new bill will eliminate such barriers that discriminate against individuals with criminal histories.

Why is this important?

1 out of 4 professions require a state issued license or certificate. The plan to simplify the application process makes it much easier for people with criminal records to pursue jobs without discrimination. When implemented, this bill will create a more fair and equitable system where all New Yorkers can apply for occupational licenses without fear of stigmatization or discrimination because of irrelevant criminal convictions.

Supporters should note that the passage of the #PLANAct will have several benefits, including:

- Making it easier for individuals with criminal records to apply for a license
- Creating a fair and equitable system of occupational licensing applications
- Providing those who may have previously been barred from professional opportunities the chance to pursue their desired careers
- Increasing access to more and better paying job opportunities will decrease the population in prisons and jails all across New York, making us safer and more prosperous.

The #PLANAct will eliminate bizarre, little known and discriminatory barriers to obtaining occupational licenses and create fairer and more equitable job opportunities that increase every New Yorkers' ability to pursue their chosen profession and thrive.

Sincerely,

Sharon White-Harrigan

Sharon White-Harrigan
Executive Director, WCJA

