

## SECOND CHANCE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM IN KENTUCKY

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In Kentucky, state law often prevents ex-offenders from working in occupations that require a license, even if they have served their time and the crime was nonviolent.

380

of Kentuckians have a criminal record. Kentucky's incarceration rate is the 8th highest in the United States.

MORE THAN

13,000

**Kentuckians** are released from prison each year and reenter society.



As of 2022, Kentucky's recidivism rate is



 $29.17^{\%}$ 

As of 2019, Kentucky's criminal justice system costs the public

\$620



million annually.

Former inmates who stay employed for one year after their release are



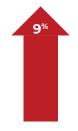
**to commit another crime** compared to those who don't have a job.

NEARLY



workers in Kentucky must get an occupational license to do their job.





States with more barriers

to occupational licensing experienced a **9% increase** in recidivism rates.

States with fewer barriers experienced a 2.5% decrease in recidivism rates.<sup>2</sup>



## **State Solutions**

Kentucky policymakers should support occupational licensing reforms that create a path for exoffenders without a history of violent felonies or sexual offenses to earn a license, such as:

- ★ Allowing ex-offenders to petition a licensing board to see if they are disqualified from the license before they complette training, education, or exams.
- ★ Preventing licensing boards from denying a license based on vague "good moral character" or "moral turpitude" requirments.
- ★ Preventing licensing boards from denying a license to an ex-offender due to a crime committed many years ago for which the threat of recividism is low.
- ★ Preventing licensing boards from denying a license to an applicant based on an arrest that did not lead to a conviction of a crime.

