



Summary & Talking Points for HB 2168

- Gives citizens with prior felony convictions the opportunity to receive state licensure for employment in the following professions, provided the conviction is not substantially related to the profession and does not pose a threat to public safety or has not occurred within the past five years:
 - Cosmetology
 - Athletic Training
 - Architecture
 - Interior Design
 - Physical Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Psychology
 - Pawn Shop Owner
 - Speech Pathology
 - Audiology
 - Professional Counseling
 - Marital and Family Therapy
 - Behavioral Therapy
- Texas adopted a similar law in 2009
 - Sec. 53.102. and Sec. 53.103.

Morally and Fiscally Responsible.

- Gives people an opportunity to become productive, taxpaying citizens of Oklahoma and move on with their lives while significantly decreasing the likelihood of going back to prison.
- If a person commits a crime and completes their full sentence, we should want them to find a way to support themselves and rejoin society. They will be less likely to re-offend and more able to contribute their talents to the economy. It is contrary to free markets to prevent a qualified person who is not a threat to public safety from taking a job.
- It is also counter to a rational justice system, where punishments should fit the crime. A blanket prohibition makes no distinction between someone sentenced to three years or thirty. As Julie DelCour wrote in **The Tulsa World**, "is it fair to exclude an applicant from being hired to work, say, the airline ticket counter because he or she was convicted of shoplifting at 18?"

Ask your legislator to Vote YES on HB 2168!

You can call the House at 1-800-522-8502 and the Senate at 1-800-865-6490 and ask to be put in touch with your Representative or Senator. Find out who represents you by going to www.togetherok.org/find-your-legislators.