



ENACTMENT SUMMARY

House Bill 268 **Certificates of Qualifications for Employment** Effective September 23, 2026

On June 24, 2026, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 268 (Reps. Humphrey and Click) into law. The bill changes the amount of time that must lapse before someone can apply for a Certificate of Qualification of Employment, effectively making it possible to apply for a CQE while still on post-release control.

Timeline for CQE Application

Under current law, a person who served a period of incarceration for a felony can apply for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment, but is not eligible to do so until one year after release from incarceration *and all periods of supervision have expired*. HB 268 removes the requirement that all periods of supervision need to have expired for a year before a person is eligible to apply for a CQE, but maintains the requirement that 1 year elapse from the time of release from incarceration.

The bill passed the Ohio House of Representatives by a vote of 93-0 on October 29, 2025 and the Ohio Senate by a vote of 31-0 on June 3, 2026. It was signed into law on June 24, 2026 and becomes effective on September 23, 2026.