

Bill Number: SB699  
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County  
Opposed

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT SHELLENBERGER,**  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, IN**  
**OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 699,**  
**AUTOMATIC EXPUNGEMENT**  
**POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**

I write in opposition of Senate Bill 699 which would provide for the automatic expungement of records regarding convictions for possession of marijuana.

Possession of more than 10 grams of marijuana is currently still a crime in Maryland. There is an extensive expungement law that lays out an entire scheme on what can be expunged and what should not. Marijuana, like all other crimes, should remain in that well thought out statutory scheme.

In addition, there is currently a legislative commission studying all aspects of marijuana including the issue of expungements. The Legislature should wait until the commission has completed its fact finding and makes its recommendations before this body should take action in marijuana issues.

Finally, this is an unfunded mandate. Over the past several years the Legislature has greatly expanded the law of expungement. My office can barely keep up with the current workload. If this bill were to pass, where now it is the State's job to initiate the expungement, my office, and I suspect others, would need to hire additional personnel.

I urge an unfavorable report of Senate Bill 699.