



House Judiciary Committee

March 10, 2020

House Bill 1343

Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Expansion

Support

NCADD-Maryland strongly supports House Bill 1343. NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the unintended collateral damage caused by our drug policies. When people who struggle with substance use disorders get treatment and start the recovery process, criminal records are often huge barriers to success. Obtaining employment and housing is difficult, and sometimes impossible. Without a place to live or a reliable income, some people are much more likely to re-offend and/or return to alcohol and drug use.

House Bill 1343 is an effort to streamline Maryland's existing expungement and shielding laws in a way that is designed to enhance employment opportunities for people with criminal records. This bill expands expungement eligibility for nonviolent misdemeanor and felony convictions after a three and five year waiting period, respectively.

This legislation takes steps toward making our communities safer by supporting people who have criminal records in their efforts to lead successful lives. It also supports people who are in recovery and helps them heal themselves and their families.

We urge your support of House Bill 1343.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.