

# Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



## Md House of Delegates – Judiciary Committee

February 14, 2023

### Hearing on HB 97

#### Expungement of Records – Waiting Periods

## MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT

**Brief bill explanation:** This bill shortens some of the waiting periods for filing a petition to expunge records related to a conviction under § 10-110 of the Criminal Procedure Article. Expungement terms under the bill: 3 years for a misdemeanor in general (currently 10 years); 5 years for a violation of § 3-203 of the Criminal Law Article or common law battery (currently 15 years); and 5 years for a felony in general (currently 15 years).

**MCDAA's position:** We support the sponsor's attempt to make the expungement of one's criminal history more uniform and more consistent with current trends. Even after an individual has paid, in full, a debt to society through the imposition of a conviction, probation, incarceration and/or restitution, the record of the conviction often hinders the individual's ability to fully integrate into society again. MCDAA favors, in general, the shortening of expungement waiting periods after the requirements of the punishment have been fulfilled.

For additional information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact MCDAA Government Relations Contact John Giannetti 410.300.6393, [JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com](mailto:JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com)