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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section,
Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
Subject: SB 1030 – Expungement of Records – Good Cause
Date: March 4, 2024
Position: **Support**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) Supports **SB1030 - Expungement of Records – Good Cause.**

This bill amends current law relating to when and what crimes can be expunged and removed from public view. It will allow a court to expunge a case at any time upon a finding of good cause.

SB1030 provides a useful tool in a variety of special situations where the expungement of a conviction is in the interest of justice. It is not an open-ended invitation to expungement. Rather it empowers a judge to make the decision to remove a conviction from public view if he or she finds that there is good cause to do. As such, it relies on the ability of judges to fairly and impartially look at requests to expunge a conviction and to make a decision based on the specific facts and circumstances presented. That is what judges do and there is no reason to think they will abuse their power in this context.

For the reasons stated, we Support SB1030 – Expungement of Records for Good Cause.

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section’s Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@gmail.com. Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA’s Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606.

