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## POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**BILL: SB 11-Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and  
Maryland Judiciary - Information Technology - Partial Expungement**

**FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**DATE: March 25, 2024**

“Partial expungement” has been a needed reform for quite some time under the current expungement statute. This reform has been introduced over many legislative sessions. One of the barriers has been that the current technology of both the Central Repository and Judicial System have not been able to expunge an otherwise eligible charge from the whole case and keep the remaining ineligible charges intact. The current technology appears to permit only all or nothing expungement which hurts Marylanders trying to move on from their past.

Senate Bill 11 as amended defines “partial expungement” and requires both the Central Repository and the Judicial System to NOT engage in any procurement relating to the technology of creating, storing, or expungement charges and records unless that technology is compatible with partial expungement. This is a critical step towards ensuring just, effective, and fiscally responsible and efficient expungement processes in the future.

We further encourage that if this bill goes to conference committee with House Bill 550, HB 550 is changed to conform with this Bill regarding the proper procurement language defining partial expungement.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 11.**

**Submitted by: Government Relations Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.**

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