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TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Tiffany Johnson Clark
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 269 – Criminal Procedure - Disclosure of Expunged Records -
Alterations (**Support**)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) respectfully urges this Committee to give House Bill 269 – Criminal Procedure - Disclosure of Expunged Records - Alterations sponsored by Delegate Robin Grammer a favorable report. House Bill 269 clarifies that refusal by a person to disclose information about criminal charges that have been expunged may not be the sole reason for a unit, an official, or an employee of the State or political subdivision of the State to deny the person's application for a license, permit, registration, or governmental service or for an educational institution to expel or refuse to admit the person.

Under current law, refusal by someone to not disclose expunged charges cannot be sole reason they are fired or not hired from a job. House Bill 269 would add that it cannot be the sole reason to deny any license, permit, registration, or government service, and also it cannot be the sole reason for a school to expel or not admit a student.

Obtaining and keeping a job is a key factor in an individual's successful reentry into society after being in jail or prison. Likewise, enrollment and admission to a school, or obtaining certain licenses, permits, or registration that an individual might need to obtain and keep a job are key factors to an individual's successful reentry. By denying an individual who has had their charges expunged the opportunity to obtain a license, permit, registration, or admission to a school unless they disclose the expunged charges, additional barriers are being created for individuals who are attempting to successfully reenter society and their communities.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable vote on **House Bill 269**.

cc: Committee Members